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For Buyers and Sellers of Businesses- \$0-100MM Revenue

Business Team Newsletter

November 2024 Edition

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What Is a "Qualified"
Buyer



By Ian MacLachlan

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One of the most difficult tasks for a business owner, if she takes the business to market on her own, without using a business broker, is "qualifying" buyers. Usually, advertising a business for sale will generate responses, but handling the inquiries can be tedious and has two costs:

Confidentiality – The inquirers, when communicating directly with the seller, will likely learn or guess the identity of the business even before signing a non-disclosure agreement. This is especially true for industry buyers (buyers in the same line of business as the seller) with the attendant risk of customer or employee losses to a

competitor.

Time – It is impossible to determine who is qualified just from the inquiry (more on that to follow) so each must be processed – requests for non-disclosure agreements, financial statements and resumes need to be made. Often, the biggest waste of a seller's time is allowing the buyer to visit the premises and start due diligence before a purchase agreement is in place. For example, when a buyer asks a seller directly if she could look at the customer list, often the seller will comply in order to be accommodating.

Buyer Qualification (from Business Team's Point of View)

When a buyer inquires about a listing, we ask them to complete and return a Buyer Profile which includes some financial information along with an executed non-disclosure agreement (NDA). We then determine whether the profile shows enough cash on hand to cover, at a minimum, the down payment required for the business inquired about. If not, before sending any confidential information, including the business identity, we contact the buyer prospect for additional information. Sometimes there are surprises – such as an undisclosed 401K with \$500,000 or a home equity line in place which means that the buyer is financially "qualified". If not, we attempt to interest the buyer in another business that might be a better fit. Note: Some business brokers are now using automated systems that send the Confidential Business Review (CBR) to inquirers upon receipt of an NDA with no review of the prospective buyer's financial profile!

Reviewing a buyer's financial statement is just one of a number of qualifying processes necessary to improve the chances of a closing taking place and may not even be as important as some others such as:

Buyer education, reliance on outside advisors, credit history and resolve. To survive, and be successful, a business broker must become adept at determining which buyers have the best chance of reaching the finish line, and minimizing wasted time for both the broker and the seller.

Next issue – How we at Business Team improve the odds of closing by addressing <u>all</u> buyer qualification aspects.

Done Deal!

Recently Sold



Septic Pumping and Mainentance

Sale Price \$1,750,000



Recently Sold



Steady Transmission Business

Sale Price \$400,000



Recently Sold



Scenic & Sightseeing Transport

Sale Price \$1,500,000



Recently Sold



After-School Programming

Sale Price \$864,900



Recently Sold



Freight Forwarding

Sale Price \$1,100,000



Recently Sold



Multi Store Dry Cleaners

Sale Price \$550,000



Recently Sold



Semiconductor Equipment Manufacturer

Sale Price \$5,750,000



Recently Sold



Electric and Construction Company

Sale Price \$5,200,000



Recently Sold



Windows Installer

Sale Price \$5,000,000



Recently Sold



Retail Pet and Farm Supplies

Sale Price \$2,900,000



Business Team

Business Sales & Acquisitions

A Division of BIT Group

Recently Sold



Custom Signage Company

Sale Price \$2,500,000



Recently Sold



Metal Coating and Finishing

Sale Price \$1,950,000



Recently Sold



Geotechnical Engineering Company

Sale Price \$1,700,000



Recently Sold



Industrial Tire Retreading

Sale Price \$1,500,000



Recently Sold



Property Management

Sale Price \$1,350,000



Recently Sold



Retail Spa and Hot Tub Store

Sale Price \$1,050,000





Businesses for Sale



Established Rebar
Fabrication Company
Listing #: 11229
Location: Northern California
Gross Sales \$7,689,805
Adjusted Earnings: \$533,915
Asking Price: \$2,500,000



Fire Extinguisher Service
Listing #11510
Location: San Mateo County
Gross Sales: \$247,129
Adjusted Earnings: \$135,693
Asking Price: \$339,000



Retail Home and Garden Business

Listing #:SF11499
Location: Northern California
Gross Sales: \$608,319
Adjusted Earnings: \$161,170
Asking Price: \$250,000



Laundromat

Listing #:SF11503 Location: San Francisco Gross Sales: \$103,085 Adjusted Earnings: \$23,609

Asking Price: <u>\$199,000</u>



Comprehensive Auto Repair
Listing #PH11105
Location: Contra Costa CountyGross
Sales: \$1,493,253
Adjusted Earnings: \$389,005
Asking Price: \$1,100,000



Residential & Commerical Painting Contractor

Listing #SA11450 Location: Sacramento County Gross Sales: \$371,262 Adjusted Earnings: \$156,655 Asking Price: \$250,000



Wholesale Boutique Bakery
Listing #:EG10960



Acoustic Measurement Mfg & Supply
Listing #:11304

Location: Lane County, OR Gross Sales: \$387,797 Adjusted Earnings: \$84,870 Asking Price: \$325,000 Location: Northern California Gross Sales: \$317,882 Adjusted Earnings: \$233,904 Asking Price: \$600,000



Full Dry Cleaner Plant & Alterations

Listing #SA11285

Location: Placer County Gross Sales: \$172,627 Adjusted Earnings: \$61,219 Asking Price: \$300,000



Wholesale Bakery Listing #SA11313

Location: Northern California Gross Sales: \$1,690,586 Adjusted Earnings: \$363,912 Asking Price: \$1,800,000



Jersey Mike's Established Franchise

Listing #: SA11443 Location: Sacramento Gross Sales \$708,409 Asking Price: <u>\$900,000</u>



Growing Data Cable Contractor

Listing #: SF11406
Location: Northern California
Gross Sales: \$1,020,046
Adjusted Earnings: \$341,227
Asking Price: \$650,000



Coffee Shop

Listing #: EG11377 Location: Portland, OR Gross Sales: \$346,884 Adjusted Earnings: \$57,316 Asking Price: \$249,000



Boutique Online Coffee & Weightlifting Apparel

Listing #: SA11364
Location Sacramento County
Gross Sales: \$1,339,022
Adjusted Earnings: \$254,536
Asking Price: \$750,000



Leading Kitchen & Bath Cabinetry

Listing #:10740

Location: Northern California Gross Sales: \$4,768,527 Adjusted Earnings: \$648,819 Asking Price \$2,000,000



Personal Training Gym Listing #:11416

Location: Oakland, CA
Gross Sales: \$178,230
Adjusted Earnings: \$103,156
Asking Price \$353,000



Pest Control Company

Listing # SA11303

Location: Sacramento County Gross Sales: \$541,975 Adjusted Earnings: \$225,886

Asking Price: \$725,000



Security Guard and Patrol Company

Listing # LA11341

Location: Southern California

Gross Sales: \$961,416 Adjusted Earnings: \$178,248

Asking Price: \$525,000



Award Winning Landscape

Business for Sale

Listing #:10382

Location: Northern California

Gross Sales: \$1,755,685 Asking Price: \$1,200,000



Profitable General Engineering Company

Listing #: IR11227

Location: Southern California

Gross Sales: \$8,418,398

Adjusted Earnings: \$661,940

Asking Price: \$3,800,000



For additional information, please visit our website.

www.business-team.com



Lara Larkin -Editor

Associate with our Sacramento office bringing over 30 years of experience in the financial services industry to help business owners successfully exit and move on to their next chapter.

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