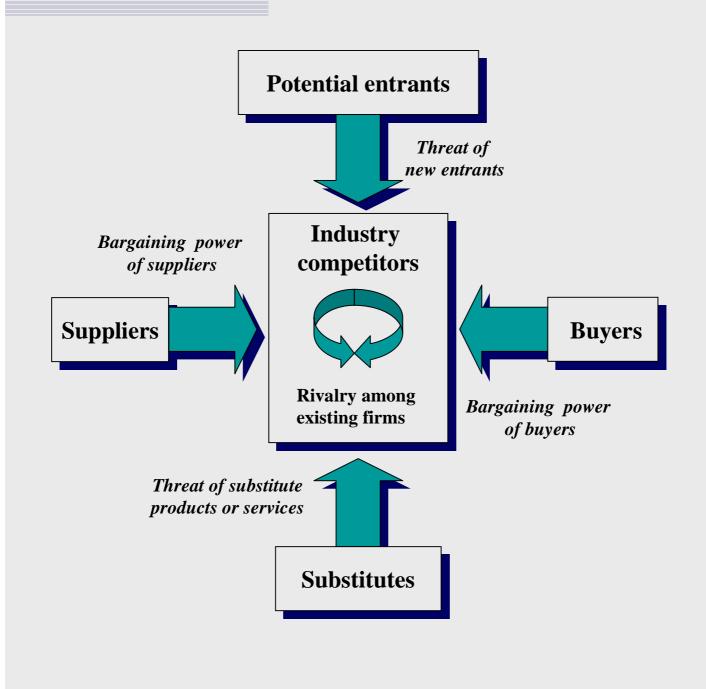
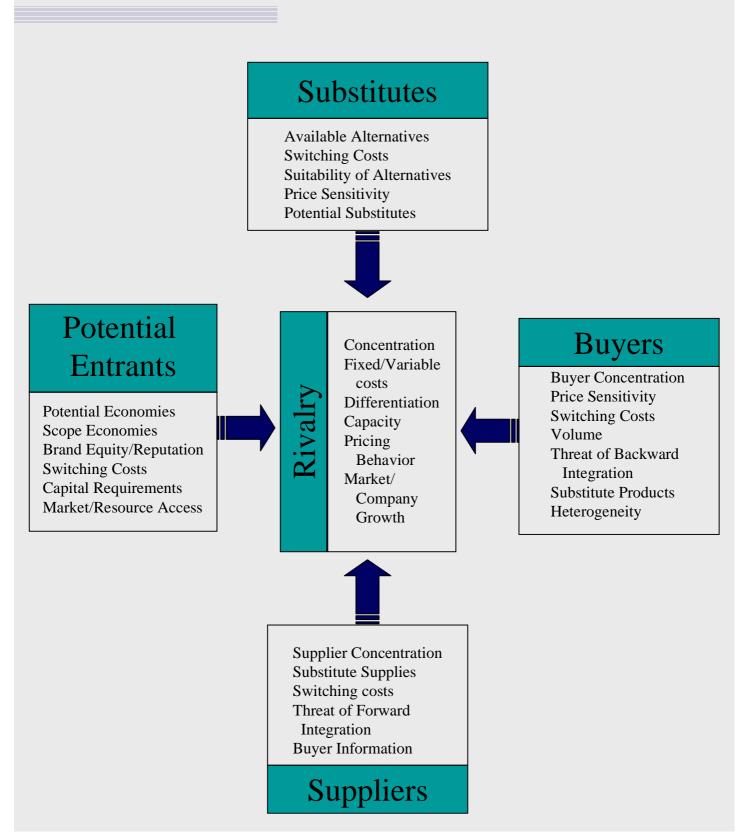
# Porter's Five Forces Model of Industry Structure and Competition

Cliff Bowman & Timothy Devinney Managing Competitive Strategy July/August 1997

## **Porter's Five Forces Model**



#### **Porter's Five Forces in Detail**



### **The Competitive Force of Potential Entry**

Barriers to entry are related to:

✔ Economies of scale.

✓ The existence of learning and experience curve effects.

✓ Brand preferences and customer loyalty.

✔ Capital requirements.

✓ Cost disadvantages independent of size.

✓ Access to distribution channels.

✓ Government actions and policies.

#### **The Competitive Force of Substitute Products**

- The price and availability of acceptable substitutes for product X places a ceiling on the prices which the producers of product X can charge.
- Unless the sellers of product X can upgrade quality, reduce prices via cost reduction, or otherwise differentiate their product from its substitutes, they risk a low growth rate in sales and profits because of the inroads substitutes may make.
- The competition form substitutes is affected by the ease with which buyers can change over to a substitute. A key consideration is usually the buyers switching costs--the one-time costs facing the buyer in switching from use of X over to a substitute for X.

### **The Economic Power of Suppliers**

A group of supplier firms has more bargaining power:

- ✓ When the input is, in one way or another, important to the buyer.
- ✓ When the supplier industry is dominated by a few large producers who enjoy reasonably secure market positions and who are not beleaguered by intensely competitive conditions.
- ✓ When suppliers' respective products are differentiated to such an extent that it is difficult or costly for buyers to switch from one supplier to another.
- ✓ When the buying firms are not important customers of the suppliers.
- ✓ When one or more suppliers pose a credible threat of forward integration.

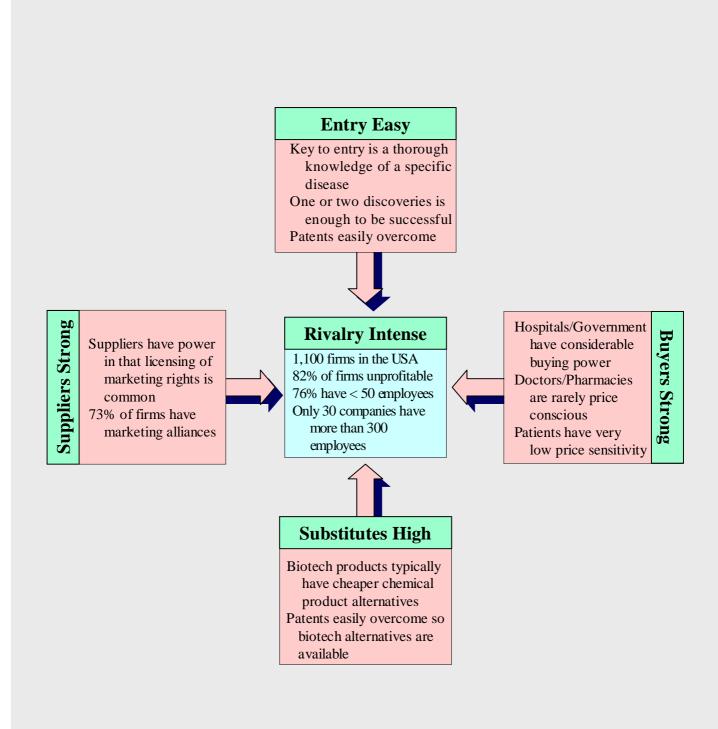
## **The Economic Power of Customers**

- The leverage and bargaining power of customers tend to be relatively greater:
- When customers are few in numbers and when they purchase in large quantities.
- When customers' purchasers represent a sizable percentage of the selling industry's total sales.
- When the supplying industry is comprised of large numbers of relatively small sellers.
- When the item being purchased is sufficiently standardized among sellers that customers can not only find alternative sellers but they can also switch suppliers at virtually zero cost.
- When customers pose a credible threat of backward integration.
- When the item being bought is not an important input.
- When it is economically feasible for customers to purchase the input from several suppliers rather than one.

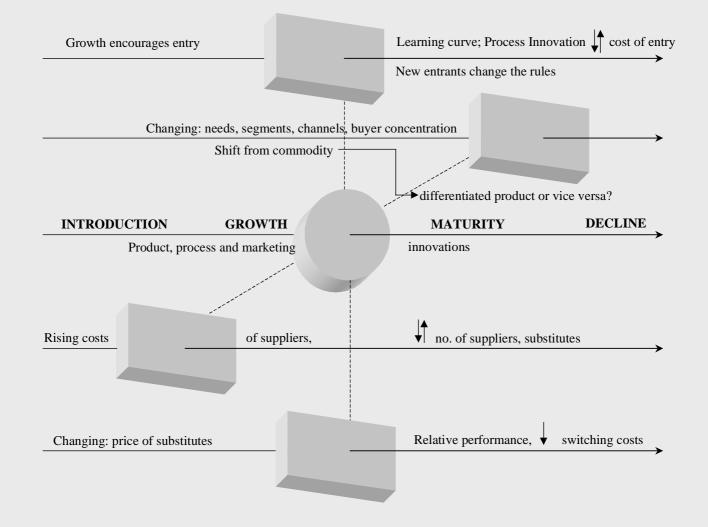
## **The Competitive Force Of Rivalry**

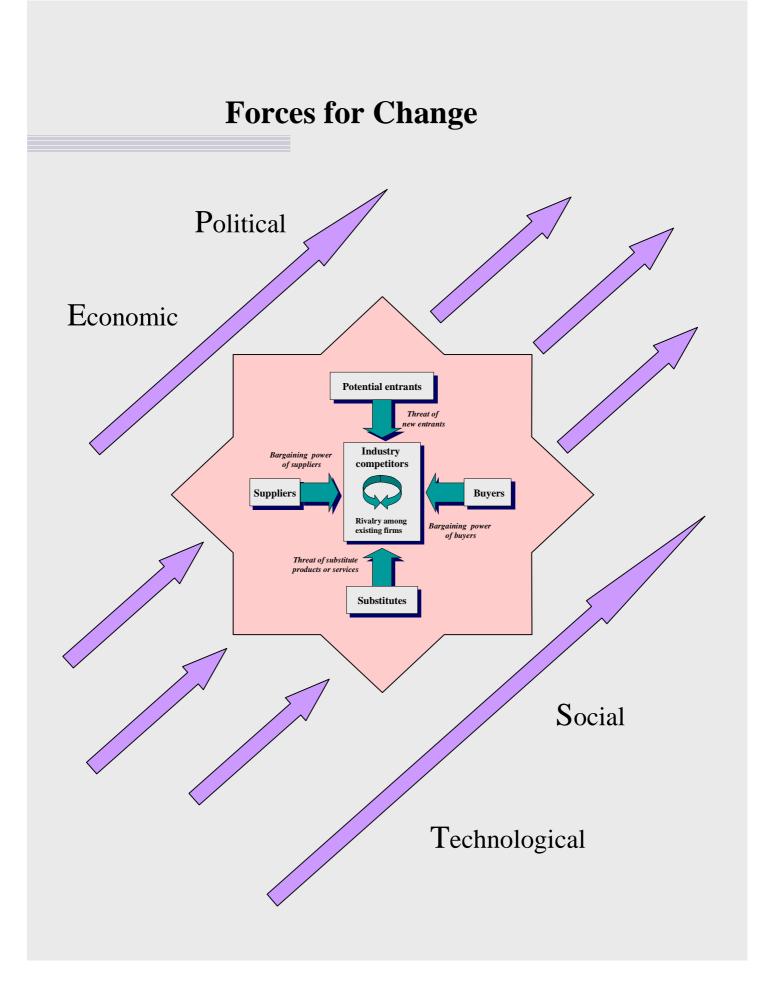
- Rivalry tends to intensify as the number of competitors increases and as they become more equal in size and capacity.
- Rivalry is usually stronger when demand for the product is growing slowly.
- Rivalry is more intense when competitors are tempted by industry conditions to use price cuts or other competitive weapons to boost unit volume.
- Rivalry is stronger when the products and services of competitors are so weakly differentiated that customers incur low costs in switching from one brand to another.
- Rivalry increase in proportion to the size of the payoff from a successful strategic move.
- Rivalry tends to be more vigorous when it costs more to get out of a business than to stay in and compete.
- Rivalry becomes more volatile and unpredictable the more diverse the competitors are in terms of their strategies, personalities, corporate priorities, resources, and countries of origin.
- Rivalry increases when strong companies outside the industry acquire weak firms in the industry and launch aggressive wellfunded moves to transform the newly acquired competitor into a major market contender.

#### **Five Forces in Biotechnology**



## **Driving Forces in the Five Forces Model**





#### **Pressures for Evolution of the Five Forces**

