

Pandemic Perspectives (Part 8) – Using Analytics to Transform Sales, Win New Assets

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As the lockdown gradually eases in many countries, institutional investors are increasingly reviewing opportunistic as well as strategic investment options.

Against this backdrop, sales activity is beginning to pick up, and asset managers are considering what they need to do to sharpen and maximize their sales efforts.

Our new report, <u>Sales Performance Excellence</u>: <u>Strategic Prospecting and Engagement</u>, finds that top-quartile distribution professionals attract close to three times the amount of assets annually as median professionals. The secret weapon is data analytics that allow them to precisely locate attractive targets and tailor custom sales pitches.

A NEW BREED OF MANAGERS IS OBTAINING INSIGHTFUL INVESTOR DATA AND UTILIZING IT STRATEGICALLY

OUR DATA SHOWS THAT LEADING MANAGERS

CONVERT 2X AS MANY INSTITUTIONAL PROSPECTS TO FINALS PRESENTATIONS AS MEDIAN PROFESSIONALS

To win in today's evolving and hypercompetitive market, asset management sales teams must be laser-focused on the highest probability prospects and equipped to maximize every opportunity.

To have a lasting impact on sales effectiveness, asset managers must have the right data and analytic platforms, and incorporate them into a sales approach that combines highly talented sales professionals with an organizational commitment to the strategy and the process.



Identify Priority Prospects



Target and Engage Prospects Optimally





Sketch, in some detail, the firm's ideal client profiles or personas



Gather data and intelligence that will allow the firm to identify the specific institutional investors who most closely match this client profile



Conduct a prospect compatibility assessment to evaluate and rank how closely prospects match the firm's ideal client profiles/personas



Spend quality time reviewing and understanding the investors who are most compatible with the firm and where/how the firm's offerings will benefit these investors



Target and engage the prospects that most closely match the firm's ideal client profiles/personas, preparing thoroughly for prospect meetings



Stay alert to "trigger events," such as competitor underperformance or consultant downgrades, that enable managers to gain an inside track with a competitor's clients



For each client won, use the data as input into an investor's servicing preferences; for example, the relative importance of intellectual capital transfer



For each prospect lost, review the reasons and add the learnings to the existing data



Continuously update the data and the prospect compatibility analysis to include new information: new investor data, institutional investor changes (e.g., changes to asset allocation), and changes within the firm (e.g., the addition of new investment capabilities)

Source: Greenwich Associates 2020

In addition to eliminating wasted time spent on low-probability sales opportunities, managers that adopt these practices are winning a disproportionate share of new business opportunities. They are also positively impacting their brand image and ensuring that new client relationships get off on the right footing, setting the groundwork for positive long-term client relationships.

Our Pandemic Perspectives blog series highlights recent findings from our COVID-19 flash studies, which indicate that some sales activity has continued during the crisis. As the crisis abates, institutional investors will be reviewing, and in some cases resetting, their investment strategies and manager rosters. Asset managers must put themselves in the best position to maximize these sales opportunities.

Pandemic Perspectives Series

Part 1 - Greenwich Investor Resilience Index

Part 2 - Lessons from the Past

Part 3 - Supporting Consultants During Coronavirus

Part 4 - Asset Manager Service Quality: Pre- and Post-COVID-19 Onset

Part 5 - Leading Through Crisis

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