

ITP Research Form

ITP: **Russia 2010**

Faculty Advisor: **William Chamberlain**

Research Group Members: **Manisha Bhangare, Damien Howard, Nicole Lee, Parul Mathur, Daniel Ng**

Paper Title: **Foreign Direct Investment in Russia**

Abstract: This paper focuses specifically on Russia and its current FDI environment. By looking at the potential lifecycle of a foreign company's investment in Russia, from the initial decision to enter the country through the challenges of restructuring or exiting upon failure of the investment, this paper will present the benefits and dangers facing foreign investors seeking to invest in Russia today. Part I looks at the reasons foreign companies seek to enter the Russian market and the concerns and considerations of these companies when making their decision. Part II develops the various structural options foreign investors have when establishing their presence within Russia, as well as the formal processes and procedures of corporate formation required by law. Part III addresses the challenges and dangers of operating on a day-to-day basis within Russia. This section begins with a discussion of political risks associated with operating in Russia will be discussed. Then, this section will provide an overview of intellectual property laws in Russia while comparing them to the United States. Finally, this section discusses how foreign investors might protect their rights should problems legal problems arise both generally and within the context of intellectual property rights. Part IV discusses the final stage of a company's life cycle in Russia. This section addresses the challenges that foreign investors face in the event that they must restructure distressed assets or are required to withdraw from Russia completely. Finally, this paper concludes with some general thoughts on the state of Russian law and investing in Russia.