

CEMENT BLOCK STARTER KIT

START



SINGLE SPARK
Your business-in-a-box

INTRODUCTION

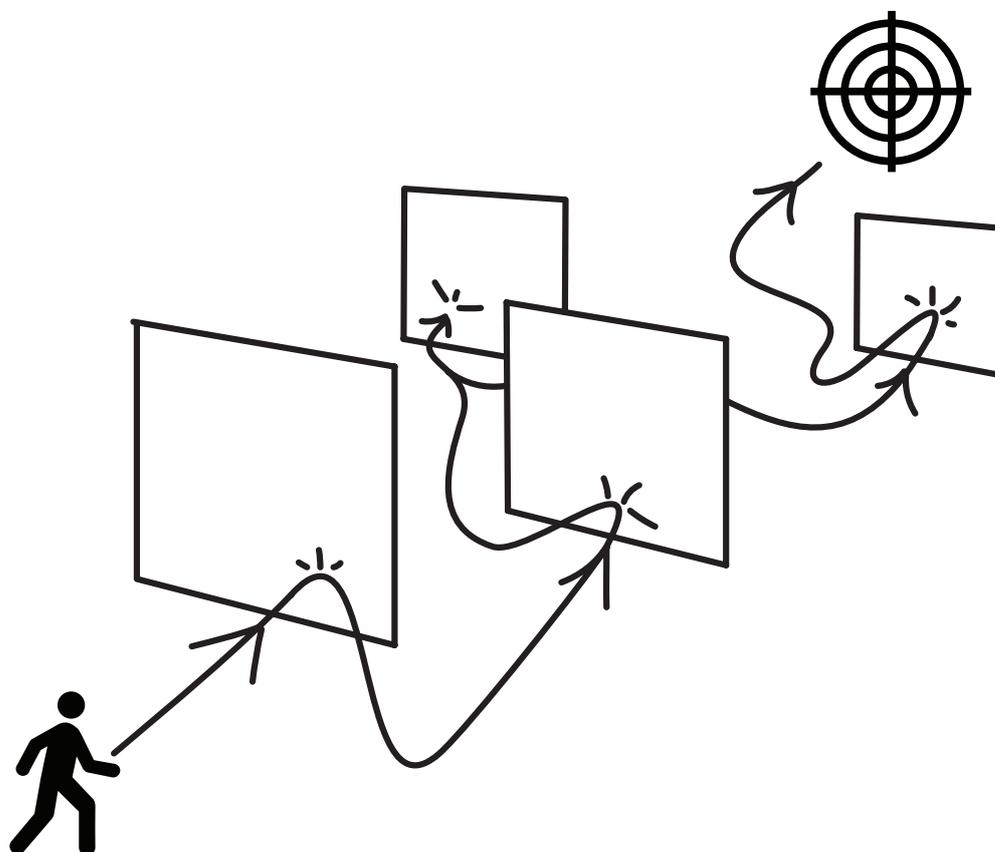
START

Ok, let's get started. This START booklet gives an overview of the steps that can be taken to start your business. You already did your feasibility study and wrote your business plan. You're already on your way and have made some steps. The first chapter of this booklet shows the path you are going to walk as an entrepreneur. For each step it shows how the business-in-a-box can support you.

In the second chapter, we give you the golden rules of your business, some things you should always keep in mind as you run your business.

The third chapter supports you as you make a planning. In the coming months you'll have a lot to do and it's important to stay on track and do things at the right time.

The fourth chapter provides a template for your investment plan. In the investment plan you'll write down how you'll use your starting capital.



CEMENT BLOCK

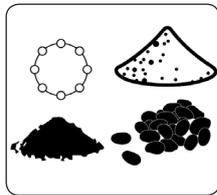
ABOUT THE BUSINESS

With this business you will make cement blocks. You can make it with a mix of fairly dry inorganic sand, gravel and a small amount of cement. This mixture you will put in a special manual or mechanically mould to get a solid building block. With a manual mould you can make about 500 blocks per day. Machines can produce higher volumes depending on size and capacity. The blocks are ready to use after 7 days out of the mould. There is no need for baking. The blocks can be sold to contractors or end users to build houses, schools, etc.

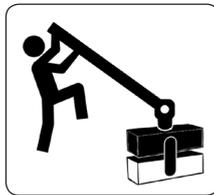
- 1 Pick a good production location with enough space to dry and store your blocks
- 2 Make a mixture of sand, gravel and cement
- 3 Produce bricks with the machine or manual mould
- 4 Let them dry for 30 days
- 5 Bricks are ready to be sold



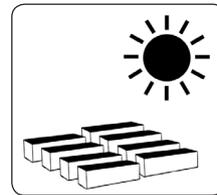
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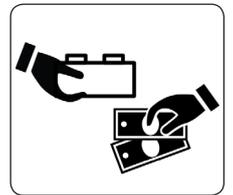
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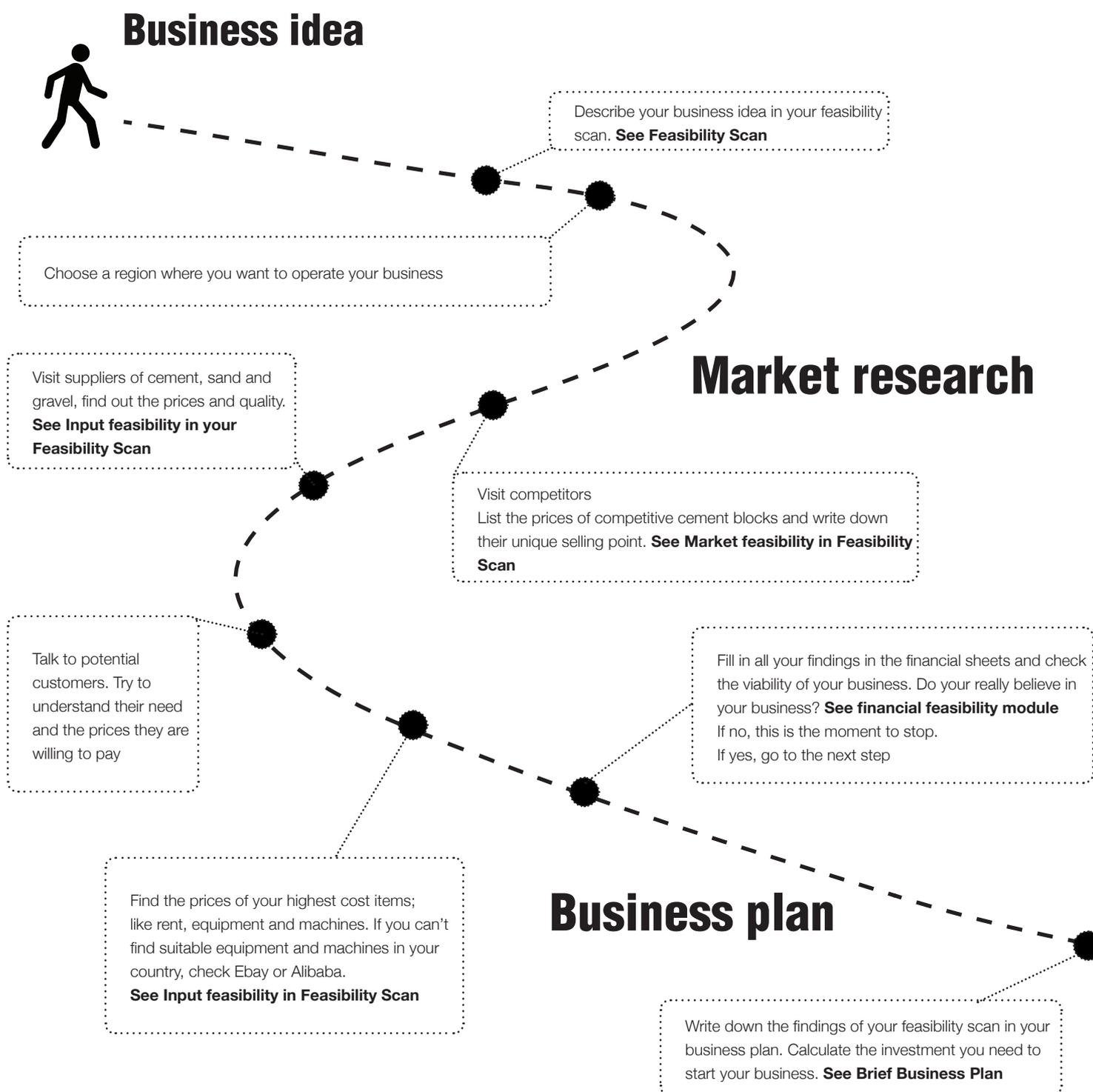


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CHAPTER ONE

STEPS

As a starting entrepreneur you're going to walk an uncertain path with challenges and a lot of questions. The image below gives you an overview of all the steps you might take to start up your business. Furthermore it shows the corresponding tools of the Business-in-a-Box which can help you to make this path less uncertain and easier to follow.



Record keeping

Keep records to stay within your budget and to measure your success!
See Record Keeping in Financials

Stay in touch with your potential customers and turn your marketing efforts into sales deals. Don't give up too soon, just keep pushing.

Sales

To keep the business in balance, spend roughly a third of your time on each of these three key things: customer care, business development and administration. That way, you'll have a smooth-running business with happy customers and new income streams on the way.

Visit potential customers well prepared. Take your marketing materials, the block tester, some blocks of yourself and some manually made blocks of rivals and show your customers the differences.

Production

Start your production when you have your first order or make some stock first. Employ staff and check the quality of the cement blocks. **See Production**

Prepare your marketing materials. Adjust and print the brochures and business cards. Download and adjust your website from the starter kit. **See Marketing Tools**

Start

Prepare a 30 second pitch about your business for potential investors. Practice this pitch often. Make sure you know your sales numbers and other important numbers by head. **See Golden Rules in this booklet**

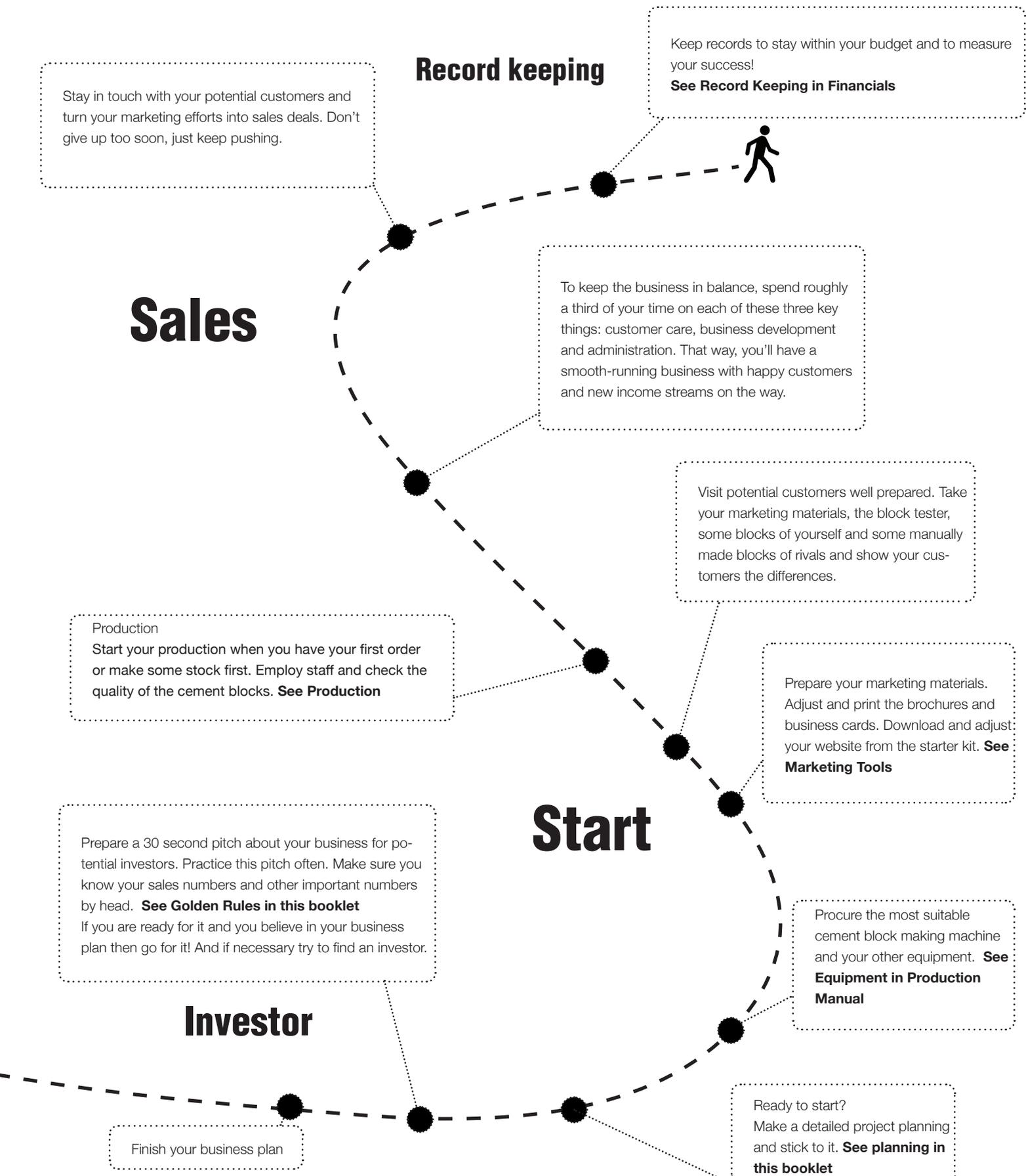
If you are ready for it and you believe in your business plan then go for it! And if necessary try to find an investor.

Procure the most suitable cement block making machine and your other equipment. **See Equipment in Production Manual**

Investor

Ready to start? Make a detailed project planning and stick to it. **See planning in this booklet**

Finish your business plan



CHAPTER TWO

GOLDEN RULES 1

Here you find some golden rules about cement block making.

Make different grade cement blocks to give customers options in quality and price.

Use the right mixture of cement, sand and gravel.

Make sure your customers pay in time or partly upfront. If one customer does not pay in time you don't have money to purchase the raw materials for the next customer.

Win the trust of your customers. They should be able to test the strength of the blocks anytime they want (use for example the block tester)

Network all the time to get new customers. People have to know and trust you before they want you to build their house or office.

To differentiate on price is difficult in this business, so you have to differentiate on quality and service.

You can use a machine to make strong cement blocks, but make sure these blocks look better and smoother than the manually made blocks.

Check your cement and your staff. It often happens that staff members put too little cement in the blocks and steal the leftover cement.

CHAPTER THREE

GOLDEN RULES 2

The general golden rules for start ups.

Start small. Keep the cost as low as possible. Only buy the essential equipment and machines. After the start up phase when you have a better understanding of the market, expand your business.

Follow the golden triangle – to keep the business in balance, spend roughly a third of your time on each of three key things: customer care, business development and administration. That way, you'll have a smooth-running business with happy customers and new income streams on the way.

Try to negotiate with your investor/bank seed capital and the option of working capital later on.

Make sure you have good marketing materials right from the start, this will give your business a more professional look. Make yourself visible, meet with many potential customers.

Keep clear records. Write down all your costs and income to calculate your profit and loss

If you use private money for your business, or business money for private use make sure you write it in your records. Otherwise you won't know whether you have made a profit or not.

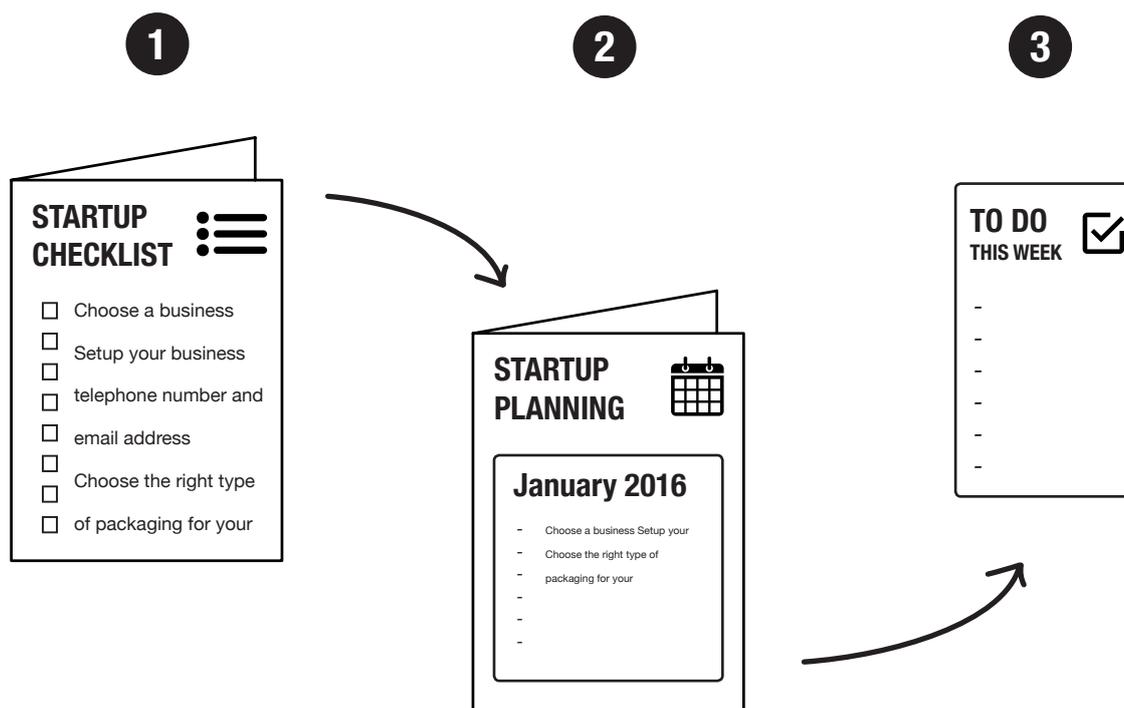
Don't be afraid to ask for help. There is nothing wrong with finding it difficult to get your business on its feet at first – in fact, challenges are expected. Don't ever be afraid to ask for help – if you don't speak up, your problems could get worse.

CHAPTER FOUR

PLANNING

Once you've written your business plan, make a planning about what you need to achieve by which date. This planning is an absolute must, and this chapter will help you out.

To start or expand your business you'll have a lot on your mind. In the following pages you can find a Startup Checklist of things which you should think about. You can add topics if necessary. We advise you to strikeout the irrelevant topics. The best way to accomplish all the relevant topics is to first prioritize and re-arrange the topics in your Startup Planning. After that you can schedule the topics more specific in your business agenda or To-Do list (which you can download from your personal website) or maybe use the calendar on your mobile phone.



See your personal account to download your Start Up Checklist



See your personal account to download your Business Agenda

1 STARTUP CHECKLIST

Please strike through all items that are not relevant. Thereafter put all relevant items in your Startup Planning.

Example:

- ~~Choose a business name~~ = Not relevant
- Choose a business name = Item putted in Startup Planning

MARKETING

- Choose a business name
- Setup your business telephone number and email address
- Choose the right type of packaging for your juice (right volume, material and cost)
- Design a logo, label and business card
- Design brochure, see booklet 'How to make a Brochure'
- Test your, product, logo, label and slogan with a test panel to get feedback on the attractiveness
- Order business cards
- Order brochures
- Register an internet domain name
- Set up a website
- Register social media profiles
- Ask your social media friends to help spread the word
- Add your new logo to your business social media accounts
- Make a list of potential customers

REGISTRATION

- Decide the legal structure of your business (sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, Limited company).
- Register your business
- Register at the tax department
- Open a business bank account

PRODUCTION

- Purchase the essential equipment
- Rent retail or office space
- Line up suppliers
- Order packaging and labels
- Setup a business Pay Pal account.
- Setup an Ebay account
- Hire your first employee
- Install machine or equipment
- Make your first products and test the quality

LATER THIS YEAR

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3 TO DO LIST

To actually get things done from your Startup Planning you need to make a To Do list every week with all the tasks you want to complete. You can use the separate to do list booklet or you can use your agenda to put in all your tasks.



See your personal account to download your Investment Plan.

CHAPTER FIVE

INVESTMENT PLAN

Make an investment plan to show how you will use the money you receive.
See your personal account to download a digital version of this file.

	Name:	Date:
	Business Name:	
Fixed assets:		
Working Capital:		
	Total investment needed (USD):	



See your personal account to download your Investment Plan.

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Single Spark
The Netherlands
www.singlespark.nl
+31(0)646902592