

GOING BEYOND CROWDFUNDING

### Crowd funding is.....

- A.A great way to fund a new project
- B. An opportunity to build your community early
- **C.**A mine field
- D.Not for everyone



## The Art of Crowd Funding

- Just like any type of business, it is about pitching a product with underserved demand.
- Crowd funding isn't just about raising money and going away; you must build a community.
- Interacting with and getting feedback from your community is invaluable to making sure you meet the demand.
- Allow backers to not only pre-purchase the end product, but to participate in the journey.



## Towards the end of 2011 started R&D on my first game project in 10 years

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 I announced to the world what it was...



#### Where We Started...



• Planned to demonstrate demand to a group of precommitted investors. If we could raise between \$2 and \$4M we had commitments to cover the rest of the estimated budget (\$12-14M at that time).

• On September 10<sup>th</sup> 2012, we put up a teaser site before the actual announcement, to gauge initial interest.

10,000 people signed up

#### Where We Started...

•On October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 we revealed Star Citizen with the trailer and prototype at GDC Austin. 40 days later at the completion of campaign, we had re

- \$4.1MM through our
- \$2.1MM through Kic
- Shattered every stret we had set.

 After this we realized that we had a chance to make the game we wanted without needing an investor or publisher at all!



#### Star Citizen: The First Year

#### Where We Stand Today...

Our direct campaign to fans has generated more than \$24 million bur Kickstarter campaig
broke all stretch goals
and generated
\$2.1 Million

otal from both campaigr More than \$26 million



Needless to say, we were blown away by the support of our fans and backers.



# The Advantages of Crowd Funding

VS.

**Classic Development** 



## PC Value Chain: circa 1998

- Developer (Home rolled engine, production tools)
  - Publisher Green Light Process (What gets made/finar
    - Publisher Marketing (How consumers are engaged
      - Publisher Sales Rep (Managed retail relations)
        - Retail Buyer (What gets brought into retail)
          - Retail Staff (Consumer Recos)
            - Player

Development Talent 5 steps removed from customer



#### **New Value Chain:**

 Development Team

Direct communication ensures products

meet the needs of customers, minimize

waste and maximize efficiency.

• Player

Direct Relationship Between Creative Talent and Players



#### Traditional Retail vs. Crowd Funded

	Traditional PC Model:	Direct PC Model:
Development:	\$12 (20% royalty)	\$48 to \$51
Marketing/PR:	\$9	\$6
Sales Promotion:	\$9	_
Retail Margin:	\$12	_
Publisher Margin:	\$18	-
Kickstarter / Payment Processor Fees:	<del>-</del>	\$3 to 6
	\$60	\$60

Direct PC publishing model allows RSI to put over 4x the resources in game development vs. other costs associated with the traditional box-product publishing model.



# So how do I connect with my potential audience?



#### Use an Established Platform...

#### Kickstarter (or Indiegogo)



- Good for initially building a com
- Has a built-in audience and support network (good for marketing and PR) but just for the length of the campaign, typically 30 days
- KS not necessarily optimal for interacting with your growing community
- Comment threads are much less interactive than traditional forums
- Once the campaign is over, no way to bring in new



#### Or Build Your Own



- Direct contact with your community
- Give you control of the medium and the message
- Allows you to customize your rewards to the game NOT the Kickstarter format
- Keeps more of the funds pledged by backers (97% versus 90% or less)

#### **Building a Community**



- Grab their attention and keep it past the 30-day campaign!
- Launch with a content plan; constant updates keep your project in the news
- Empower your users; your backers' passion is your best marketing tool

What we do to take it to the next level...

(\$20M+ after the initial crowd funding campaign and counting)



## Focus on Community: Our S Sauce



- We have established a dedicated and passionate community of nearly 300K space sim fans
- Our fans are involved in the design process and included in decision making through discussion forums and polls
- These fans have pledged

more than \$26 million towards the early development of the project

#### Some stats about our backers

- 69% are over the age of 25
- 89% game on a desktop
- 81% built their own PC
- 75% have 8 GB of RAM or more
- 29% intend to use Oculus Rift
- 58% own at least one console

## How do we keep the community engaged and having fun? Ongoing and regular content releases!

Monthly newsletters





## **Daily Content Releases**





#### Make Backing Fun!

- Create events around new content reveals. For every spaceship introduction we create a full in-fiction brochure, like you would receive from a car dealership, along with in-engine commercial using the actual game assets.
- Live events to interact and share with the community on a realtime basis
- With constant content behind-the-scenes footage, development updates, polling fans on features, meet-the-team interviews, etc. – gives backers something to sink their teeth into along the way.
- These events have attracted many new members to the community. 60% of the funds raised since April have come from entirely new backers, growing the community.

### Live

Stream - raised \$1.5 million







#### Live

## Street 2013 34hr live stream

 Combination of live events and promos generated \$4.3 million in one month period (6/22 – 7/22)







# 1 Year Anniversary Celebration

• Helped raise \$5 million+











- Modding competition for players to create a space ship that will be part of Star Citizen
- \$30,000 grand prize
- Weekly live elimination rounds
- Major sponsors Alienware, AMD, Autodesk, Crytek, YouTube
- Winning team announced on the eve of E3 live on RSI YouTube channel





## AAA quality prometional brachuras

## One year since our crowd funding campaign began...

Star Citizen is raising funds



#### Why?

- Great content
- Regular information flow about SC and the process of building the game.
- A community that continues to be engaged and invest in the universe
- New fans still being added daily

# Involve Your Community by Sharing Your Work!



#### Staged Development: Share as You Go

#### **Traditional PC Development**

- Development risks are back-end loaded.
- Consumer feedback addressed post launch
  - Will it be fun?

Launch

Design, Development, and Technology risks surface late in development process.

#### **RSI Staged Development:**

- Core game systems tested early Consumer feedback incorporated early
- · More engaging process for all stakeholders

Hangar App Dogfighting

Live





### **Staged Development:**

USING A BLENDED PLAN OF AGILE METHODOLOGY FOR FEATURE DEVELOPMENT AND WATERFALL METHODOLOGY FOR PRODUCTION, ALONG WITH TRIED AND TESTED MIDDLEWARE SOLUTIONS, THE TEAM PLANS TO RELEASE PLAYABLE MODULES AS THEY ARE COMPLETED.

Module	FEATURES
HANGAR MODULE - AUGUST 2013	VIEW AND CUSTOMIZE SHIPS IN YOUR HANGAR AND SOCIALIZE WITH FRIENDS
DOGFIGHT MODULE	TAKE YOUR SHIPS INTO SPACE AND FIGHT! (MOBA)
PLANETSIDE MODULE	MORE ADVANCED SOCIAL PLAY ON THE PLANETARY LEVEL
BOARDING/FPS MODULE	BOARD SHIPS AND TAKE ON YOUR ENEMIES IN FIRST PERSON COMBAT
SINGLE PLAYER STORY ALPHA	ALPHA VERSION OF SQUADRON 42
PERSISTENT UNIVERSE BETA	EARLY MMO RELEASE
LIVE	FULL RELEASE OF ALL LAUNCH CONTENT W/ FULL COMMERCIALIZATION

CROMORIANON, STREET

REGITATION ATTONOMY.

MODULE HY

NOOLINDA OOLIKA

STAGLE ALANERS STAN

EASISTERN STRAIGE

2015

## First Module Released - August 2013



#### And there's more to come

The Dogfighting exand modular release scheduled for a staged rollout from the end of this year through the early part of 2014



#### **Our Goals**

Be the first ever AAA game funded solely by its fans.

Capitalize on the strengths of the PC as an open platform with more power than consoles.

Build a thriving community ahead of our launch...

...and WITH OUR COMMUNITY AS PARTNERS, strive to create the Best Damn Space Sim Ever!



#### Wrap-up

- Excited about PC gaming and the opportunity to bring something fresh and new to Space Sims.
- Tremendously thankful to our fans and backers for their support. We couldn't do it without them!
- Welcome everyone to join in on the fun! <u>www.robertsspaceindustries.com</u>

