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Introduction to e-commerce businesses in Thailand

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By EIC | Economic Intelligence Center

Despite small market size of e-commerce, ASEAN will be one of the world's fastest-growing markets for e-commerce revenues in the next few years



Remark: * opportunity from e-commerce is calculated from the assumption of e-commerce share growing to reach 5% of retail sale (2013 data) Source: EIC analysis based on data from UBS and Euromonitor

Thailand's e-commerce is projected to grow 12% CAGR reaching 740 billion baht in 2018, especially for business-to-customer (B2C) transaction



Source: EIC analysis based on data from National Statistical Office (NSO)



B2C e-commerce entrepreneur in Thailand remains very fragmented and competition is more intense

Type of e-commerce by transaction and product

Unit: %







Social and mobile commerce are platforms of e-commerce to focus on in Thailand with potential promising growth of 70% through 2018

Market size of mobile-commerce

Unit: million baht







Fast growing internet and rising mobile devices penetration are key drivers





Development of payment method



Source: EIC analysis based on data from NSO

A successful e-commerce business needs not only user friendly storefront and shopping aids but also efficient back-end arrangement for order fulfillment



Essential elements of an e-commerce business





At least four models of e-commerce business are observed, although their operational difference is ambiguous and a company employs many models



Operational model of each type of e-commerce business

E-commerce players are characterized by the model of product transfer, ordering process, and logistic operations

Туре	Characteristic	Revenue	Cost	Payment
Click & Mortar	 Customers can shop either on retailers' websites or a physical store. Sharing the same database of products across all channels allows retailers to track their customers across all channels to gain a better CRM 	 Sales revenue Advertising revenue 	 Inventory and logistic costs Advertising cost Other administrative cost 	 Cash on delivery Mobile EDC Credit card Bill payment, Bank transfer
Retail & marketplace	A company can either provide its own products or act as a market place operator by providing the suppliers with platform to place products/services	 Sales revenue Commission revenue Transaction fee revenue (fixed or percentage of sales) Advertising revenue 	 Inventory and logistic costs Advertising cost Other administrative cost 	 Cash on delivery Paypal Credit card
Pure marketplace	A type of e-commerce site where products/service s are provided by multiple suppliers. Transactions are operated by the marketplace facilitators and then delivered and fulfilled by the participating suppliers	 Commission revenue Transaction fee revenue (fixed or percentage of sales) Advertising revenue 	 Advertising cost Administrative cost 	 Credit/debit card Paypal PaysBuy Bill payment, Bank transfer Counter services
E-coupon	A type of e-commerce marketplace that connects merchants to consumers by offering goods and services at a discount Each day, a web deal will provide e- coupon		Administrative cost	 Credit/debit card Counter services Bill payment, Bank transfer

Despite lower operating costs, most of e-market place retailers face challenges from the ability to control over the details of transaction

Туре	Pro	Cons
Click & Mortar	 Full control over the details of any given transaction such as prices, product quality, stock management, and logistics The integration of store-based and online channels enables firms to capitalize on potential synergies, i.e. logistics, operations, marketing, and customers . Synergy benefits will result in cost saving in a number of areas such as labor, inventory, marketing and distribution 	 E-commerce channel may cannibalize sales from physical channel Need to manage both front end and back end transaction Traditional firms may lack competencies needed to achieve synergy from click & mortar channel
Retail & marketplace	 Full control over the details of any given transaction such as prices, product quality, stock management, and logistics Not only revenue from sales, e-commerce facilitator can make a percentage off of every transaction Allows for a much bigger scale of suppliers and has the opportunity to scale up considerably 	 Has inventory costs and logistic costs Need to manage both front end and back end transaction
Pure marketplace	 Reduce overhead cost No inventory or logistic costs Allows for a much bigger scale of suppliers and has the opportunity to scale up considerably 	 Less control over the details of any transaction such as logistics, inventory, product quality No control over product pricing
E-coupon	 Reduce overhead cost No inventory or logistic costs No concern on reliability of delivery services 	 Less control over product or service quality No control over product pricing



An e-marketplace has been transformed to different concepts of platform for retailers of all sizes to do business through e-commerce

Deal sites/Flash sales

✤ A website offers a single

product for sale for a

Potential customers

social networks

period of 24-36 hours.

register as members of the

deal-a-day websites and

Classified Ads

 A web facilitator operate the online platform for C2C transactions similar to the classified advertising section of newspaper or going to an auction

Subscription

Kaidee.com

 Buyers signing up for multiple subscriptions services each month and get samples as part of their subscriptions

VANITYTROVE

receive online offers and invitations by email or

Group buying

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- Same concept as deal sites, but a minimum number of buyers need to sign up for the same offer to get the deal
- Many group-buying sites negotiate deals with local merchants and promising to deliver a higher foot count in exchange for better prices

Tender/Auction Sellers place their products

- Sellers place their product for bidding on the marketplace website
- A company will facilitate online platforms such as communication,

ehi

Alibaba.com

advertising and payment

Taobao.com

Hybrid format

- Combination of pure ecommerce and marketplaces
- Selling products and providing a space for

amazon ORakuten

Lazada ZALORA

Although store-based retailers have brand advantage, their online channels are still unable to compete with marketplace retailers in terms of traffic view



Monthly traffic of key players in Thailand by business model

Source: EIC analysis based on data from UBS



Different business models of e-commerce are provided with variety of how to compete in the market





Source: EIC analysis based on data from UBS



Despite high traffic view and sale volume, e-market place retailers still have low profitability

Financial performance of each business model

Business model	Example	Bounce rate* (%)	Sale Volume (mill baht)	Gross profit margin (%)	Operating profit margin (%)	SG&A/Sale (x time)
Click & Mortar	Central.co.th	44.1	168	10.7	1.7	0.08
Retail & market places	La <mark>iz</mark> ada	77.2	659	17.2	-78.5	1.0
Pure market places	Welove SHOPPING	56.0	932	33.6	-5.54	0.4
E-coupon	ensogo Let's save together	29.4	195	100.0	-15.9	1.2

* It represents the percentage of visitors who enter the site and leave the site rather than continue viewing other pages within the same site Source: EIC analysis based on data from UBS

Most of e-commerce companies still have negative operating margin



OPM Vs. GPM of Thai's e-commerce companies



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