





How to pitch to investors



Written by Guillermo Flor at www.productmarketfit.tech Newsletter

- The objective of this presentations is not to give a comprehensive overview of pitching but rather to share the dynamics of investment decision making and the purpose of pitch.
- How to pitch to investors 
 1. The basics
 2. What not to do
 3. What the best do
- The startup pitch framework 

1. How to pitch to investors

The basics:

1. Venture Capitalists have an investment thesis they have to follow. If your startup doesn't fit the investor's thesis don't bother pitching
2. Most times you'll start pitching to associates. Then the associates will have to share the opportunity with the rest of their investment team. The easier you make their job the more chances you have.
3. How you pitch your startup gives out a lot of information about you to investors. Make sure your investment materials are organized, your pitch is concise and to the point and you are likeable.
4. Never look desperate, you'll scare off every investor.

What not to do:

1. **Never, ever lie.** Investors detect bullshit miles away. Their job is basically that. So, if you don't know something, just say it. It's better to say "we still have to test this go to market strategy and see if it works" than to say "it will work for sure".



What the best do:

1. **Follow up.** If you are waiting for news from an investor and he's forgetting to answer back, follow up on him. If you don't, he might just think you aren't interested enough and he will also lose interest in you.
2. Create relationship with the investor. You can do this although you don't really need to. Your results are the best driver not your friendships.

2. The startup pitch framework



What is a MECE framework and why you should always use them

MECE is a problem-structuring framework that organizes data into simple and logical categories. The concept was developed by [Barbara Minto](#) at [McKinsey](#) back in the 1960s, but it is still widely used across

consulting firms today.

The MECE framework consists of two rules:

- **Mutually Exclusive (ME):** All categories or items being used to analyze a problem must not overlap. Meaning each item should fit into one and only one category.
- **Collectively Exhaustive (CE):** All categories or items being used to analyze a problem must cover all possible options without any gaps.

Together, these two rules can help you translate complex information into simple and logical categories.

Learn more about it [here](#).

The startup pitch framework

The idea behind this framework is to properly organize your startup's information to display the most important indicators.

The framework is divided into 3 parts:

1. Internal aspects (The Company)
2. External aspects (The Market)
3. Business Case (The Round)

1. Internal aspects: The Company

In this section you have to share what it is that makes your company great 🙌



Prove you are the best team to build that startup

You can start by introducing yourself and your team and explain what motivated you to start the company.

The most important thing here is to show how you have a competitive advantage that makes you the best team to build this exact solution.

For example:



Wiz had a world class founding team

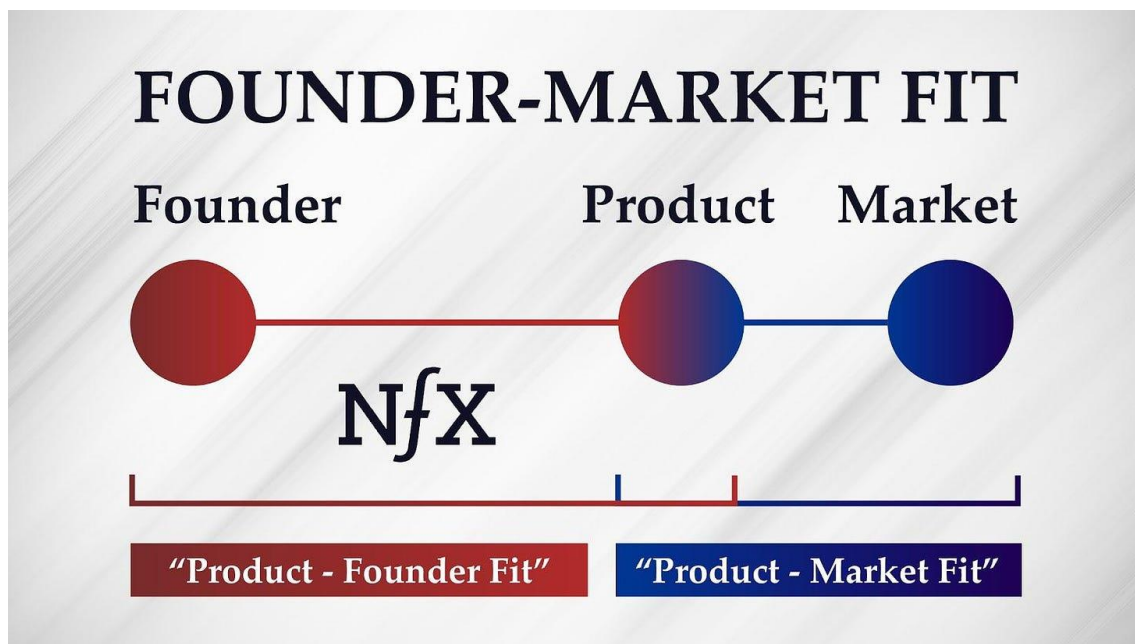
All four founders:

- **Had market fit:** they knew the cybersecurity market and problems in depth.

They had been working on it for at least 10 years

- **Had built before a big successful company in the cybersecurity industry**
- **Had a great investor network internationally**
- **Had access to world's biggest corporations to sell their product**

That is great fit!



Show how your product creates huge value

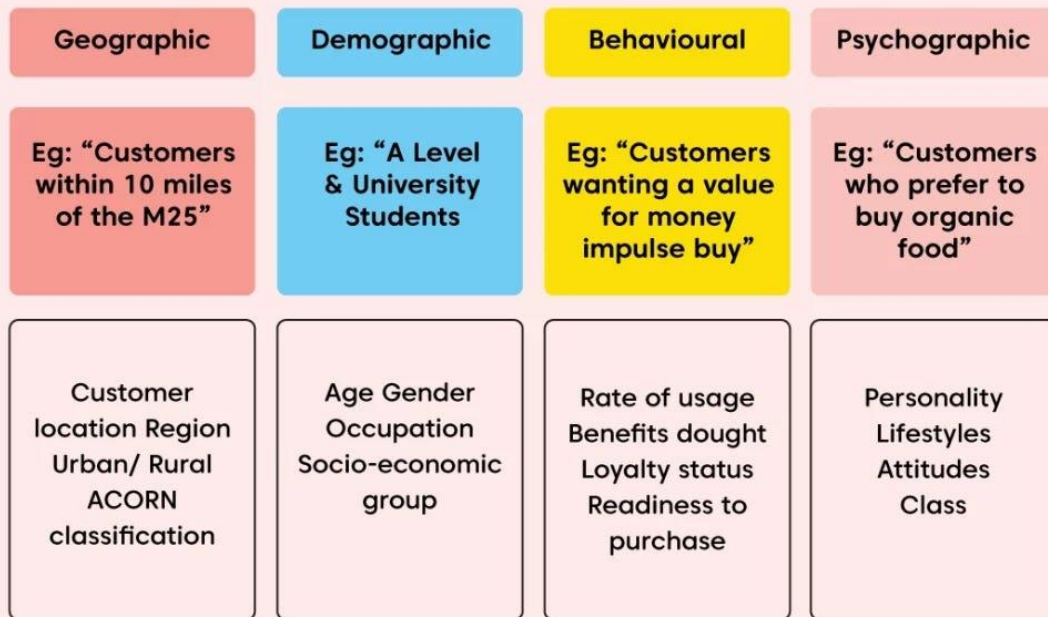


Explain how relevant are your clients, how diverse, geographically dispersed, and how you are acquiring them

Here investors want to see:

1. How many clients you have
2. How much revenue you gain per client
3. How concentrated the revenue is
4. What is the relevance of the clients
5. How they are distributed geographically

Main Bases of Segmentation



Source: tutor2u

Show how demand is accelerating and your clients keep using your product

In the end it all comes down to 2 things:

1. How fast you are acquiring new clients and at what cost
2. How long they stay using your product and what they pay

This is what makes investors want to invest in your company.

It doesn't take many x2 for a company to grow very big. If your company is doing 2x in its north star metrics investors will fight to invest in it.

Check out how Rewind's CEO showed this graph on his pitch deck 



[Check his full pitch here](#)

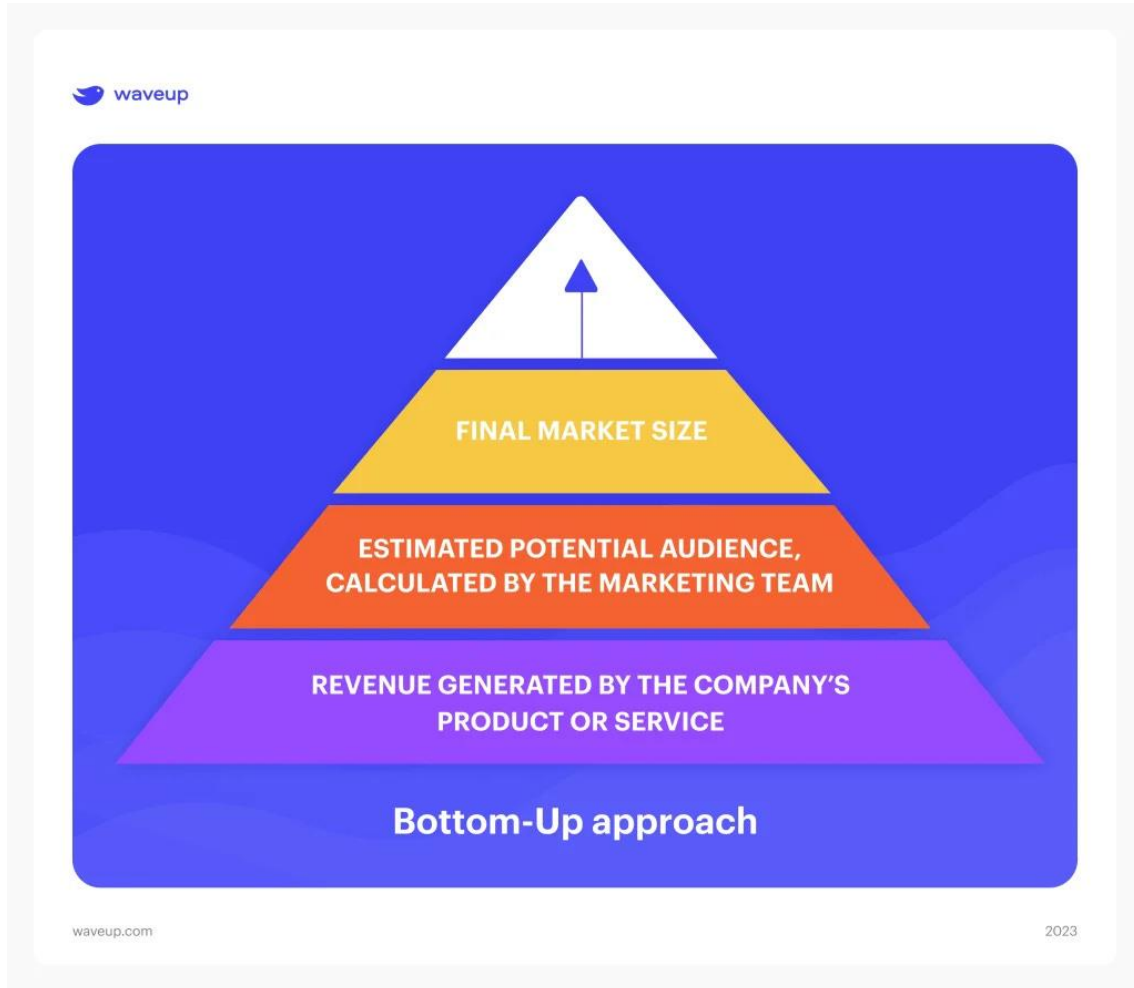
2. External aspects: The Market

This is how you prove investors your company will keep on growing.



Prove investors there is a huge market opportunity with a bottom up approach

Investors don't want to see big numbers with no justification. Do your homework and identify with as much detail as possible how many potential customers there are for your product.



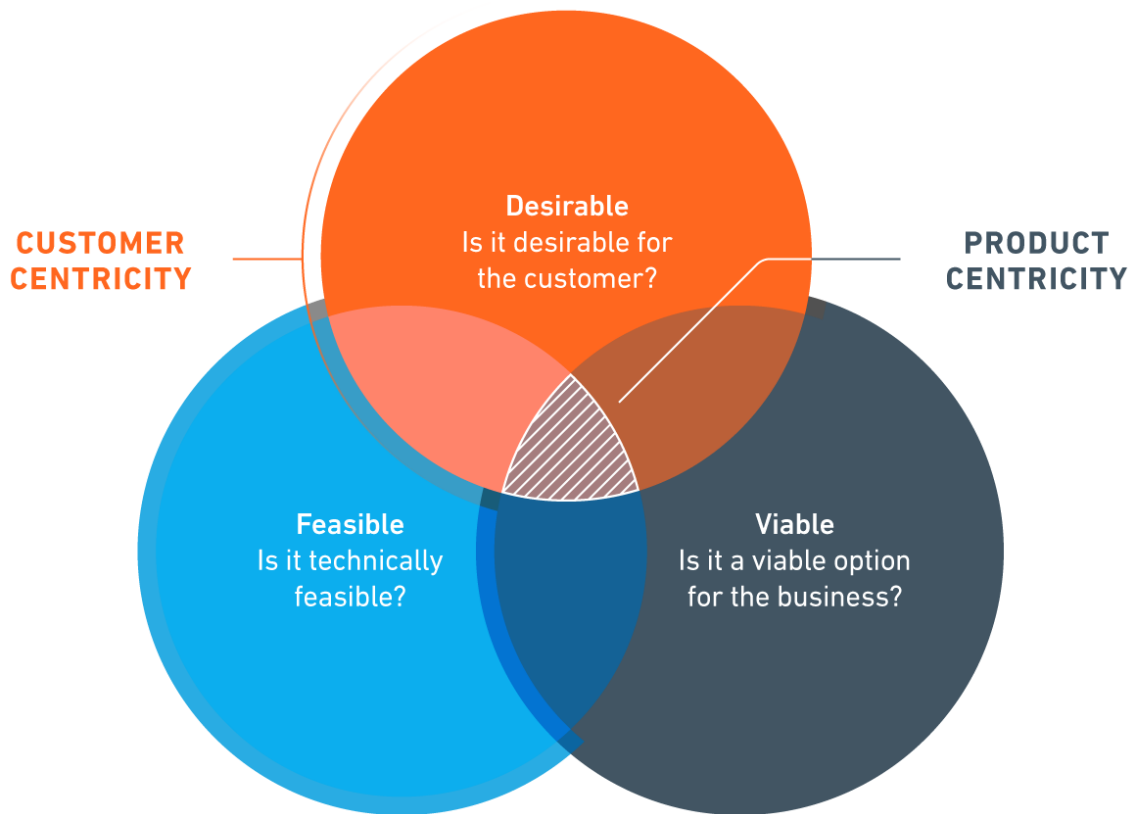
Show how fast that market is growing

If a market is huge and it's growing really fast, it's likely it will help your company grow at least at the same pace.

🚧 IF YOUR MARKET IS NOT GROWING OR NOT BIG ENOUGH, 99% OF VC WILL NOT INVEST 🚧

Explain how your product solves a pain in a different way/space than anyone and how that's better

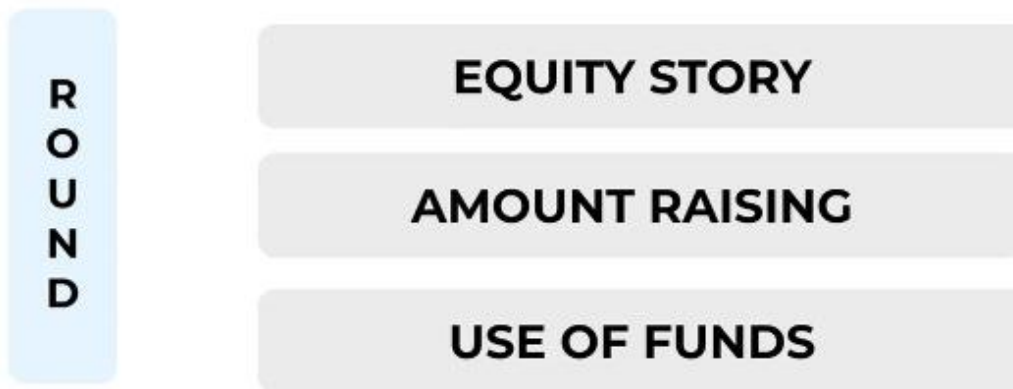
There's always going to be competition. However, your product should target something so specific that you can have a competitive advantage. Look for that.



[Read more about how to create defensibility here.](#)

3. Business case: The round

This is the part where you show investors it makes sense for them to be a part of the funding round.



Show how you've got a clean captable and the VCs that invested previously are going to follow on this round.

▶▶ RED FLAG ALERT: VCs invest in entrepreneurs. If the founders don't have significant equity most VCs will not invest

- ✓ Seed Rounds: +75%
- ✓ Series A: +60%
- ✓ Clean captable with 1-3 VCs or 1-3 BAs
- ✗ Captable with multiple non professional investors
- ✗ VCs not following on the round

Show investors how you are going to invest their money and how it will ROI

This part is critical and where so many entrepreneurs miss. Not many investors will invest in something that isn't growing.

You have to go out to fundraise when the company is going the best and close it fast.

You have to show how fast it can grow if you use their money to distribute the product!

Most investors are valuation sensitive. Make sure you don't waste your time with investors that don't see you company growing 10x

If you are raising a series A round at \$60M Valuation, the first thing investors will think about is: can this company reach \$600M Valuation?

At a 20x multiple you'd need \$30M ARR to \$600M valuation so bear that in mind when pitching your business plan.

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Weekly growth actionable tips for
startup founders by Guillermo Flor