**Introduction**

A merger can be defined as a combination or unification of two firms about the same size; these firms agree to go forward as a single new company rather than remain separately owned and operated. This kind of an action is also known as “merger of equals.” A new company stock is issued in their place since both companies are required to surrender their stocks (Anon., 2016).

On the other hand, acquisition can be defined as actions through which companies seek economies of scale, efficiencies, and enhanced market visibility by purchasing other firms (Anon., 2016). Unlike mergers, there is no exchange of stock or amalgamation as a new company. Acquisitions are often friendly, and all parties feel satisfied in the deal. Other times, acquisitions are hostile depending on how the target company’s board of directors, employees and shareholders received the offer purchase news. A company can be bought with cash, stock or a combination of the two.

According to Hornick (2014., p. 34) technology for 3D-printing has been in existence since the 1980s. Although, the technology has not been capable enough or cost-effective for most end-product or high volume commercial manufacturing. However, there are expectations that these shortcomings are about to change. Gordon (2015., p. 89) States that several technology trends are feeding these expectations with the emergence of mid-level 3D printers offering high-end system features in a desktop form factor at lower price points.

The evolution of 3D printing has exploded over the past few years. (Tovey, 2016) Published on telegraph website describing about how effective the 3D printing was especially due to its capability of printing a 3D gun which made it hit the headlines with news. However, the main objective of this technology is to enable simulations, especially when carrying out experiments. Due to this headlines, economists had their eye open. They saw a brighter future in the 3D printing practices. (Tovey, 2016) Shows how acquisitions have evolved since then in the 3D printing company on the publication as well. For example, a network of seven centres across the UK which combined resources from businesses, government and academia to bring this new way of producing products.

Foodstuffs such as chocolates and sugars are also being used as a medium for 3D printing states Hornick (2014, p. 36). Research is taking place with scientists having printed muscle tissue thus means that in the future there is a possibility that one will be able to order a printed steak.

The worth of the 3D printer market itself grew 109% in 2013 to US$711 million and is forecast to grow 79% in 2014 to hit US$1.3 billion (Alto, 2016). The market value is expected to grow to US$5.4 billion by 2018. Value growth will reflect increasing commercial printer volumes and, as such, also drive growth in the volume and value of consumables shipments, including both resistant printing materials and removable or dissolvable support materials. This is a fast-evolving market, but it is still in its infancy. One should expect to see new major entrants making a significant impact in the industry in the coming years, including giants such as HP. This explains the need for acquisitions and mergers to deal with the competition innovation threshold.

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