

REENGINEERING INTERNAL AUDIT 2020-21 THE COVID 19 CHALLENGE

- Covid-19 has disrupted business over the last few weeks. As we all expect, the road the recovery is going to be challenging. Internal Audit function will have a important role to play in shaping this recovery and needs to be re-looked at to make it sharper.
- IA will continue to provide assurance to management and the Board on the risk and controls landscape, and anticipate emerging risks as businesses and operations adapt and evolve. Internal audit will also need to play a larger role in identifying efficiencies and improvements across functions and operations to support the company's bottom-line. In our view, the focus areas for 2020-21 would be:

Operations

- Focus on critical risks that matter; adapt the IA plan to changing environment and operations
- •Streamline operations; bring in efficiencies across processes

Finance

- Strengthening Cash Flows through focused review of inventory, receivables and payables
- Detection of fraud risks and management overrides

Cyber

- Internal/external threats to data and systems
- •Inadequate user acceptance testing of new systems hurriedly implemented

Business Continuity

•Several companies' BCP would have been tested in a live environment for the first time. How robust is the BCP?

Tax & ncentives

- Optimize GST credits and payments
- Effectively utilize Govt incentives and benefits rolled out as part of fiscal stimulus.

HOW INTERNAL AUDIT SHOULD ADAPT ITSELF FOR THIS JOURNEY

Agile Approach

- Evaluate Co-sourcing/ outsourcing model with firms which have national/ local presence
- Revisit IA plan; Include modules based on organisation needs/ key risks

Multi Disciplinary Team

- Involve specialists in Finance, industry, Tax and IT on IA engagements for greater value add
- > Focus on data F

Cyber security

- Does yoru IA firm have IT/ Cyber capabilites?
- Carry outVulnerabilityAssessments
- Revisit IT general and application controls

Revisit BCP

Lockdowns may recur; evaluate what worked and what did not work during current lockdown

Remote Working

- Develop a robust IT infrastructure
- Train teams in accessing data/tables from ERP/applications

Focus on Cost Saving

- Does your IA partner have geographical spread to match your needs savings in travel costs Identify/research industry best practices
- Enhance use of analytics and trend analysis



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8

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