

## Foreword

Avi is currently a senior academic in Israel at the Technion. I should point out, however, that Avi was one of the best doctoral students I have ever had — he completed his thesis at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the mid-1980s, when I was James F. Towey Distinguished Professor of Strategic Management there. Avi's thesis, which went on to win a prize from the Business Policy Division of the Academy of Management, was formally grounded in the field of competitive strategy and provided one of the first and most insightful studies about the concept of strategic and competitive groups in the field of strategic management.

He published a series of well-cited papers, some of which I co-authored, in the *Strategic Management Journal* and the *Academy of Management Journal* over succeeding years. He also moved from Illinois to a position on the Strategy faculty at the University of Michigan and stayed there until the early 1990s. However, Avi always had the desire to return to Israel and to pass on the results of his research to future generations of students there. He was particularly intrigued with the success and growth of entrepreneurial Israeli firms, particularly in the areas of high technology and medical research. Indeed, not only did he research these companies in depth during the 1990s and early 2000s, but Avi also took part in the management and development of some of these firms as a first-hand participant.

This book represents the culmination of Avi's research and practice in the Israeli high-tech field and is an important volume for those scholars of strategy and entrepreneurship who seek to understand strategy development and growth amongst entrepreneurial, fast-growing firms. The lessons from this study can provide insight for policy makers in the entrepreneurial field but also important research insights for future scholars in the field of strategy and entrepreneurship.

I commend this manuscript to you for the depth and quality of its research. Avi has commissioned translators to take the text from Hebrew to English and I think that the resulting text published here will prove to be an important monograph in the development of the field of strategy and entrepreneurship. I wish all readers the same excitement as I received when reading this book and hope it will provide the catalyst for further research in this area.

Howard Thomas  
*Dean, Warwick Business School*