



A Double Loop & ValueBizbooster Report

How B2B Industrial Leaders Beat Pricing Pressure With Value Selling

Survey Results & Recommendations - July 2025

Dr. Ralf Schmidt & Dr. Steve Laborda

Double Loop & ValueBizbooster





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Agenda





- 1. Introduction
- 2. Survey Results
- 3. Recommendations
- 4. Contact & More Information









The Initiators of the Study







The Initiators of the Study: Ralf





PhD in Marketing

Master in Business Administration

Founder of Double Loop

Based in Germany

B2B Marketing & Sales Excellence expert with a focus on the chemical industry and more than 30 years of experience in the fields of B2B Marketing, Pricing, Sales Excellence, Sales Enablement & Coaching, Account Management, KAM and Value Selling.

Lead Marketing & Sales Trainer for BASF

Myers Briggs Type Indicator® certified, hands-on and with a down-to-earth mentality.

In his private life: Husband, dad to three kids, Savate-kickboxer, Online Deep House Hobby DJ and cigar aficionado. And you see him regularly in the gym and on hikes in nature.







The Initiators of the Study: Steve



PhD in chemistry

Founder of ValueBizbooster

French, based in Germany

Overall 15+ years of experience in B2B sales & marketing

Expert in commercial excellence and value-based selling

In his corporate life, he was leading a commercial excellence program focusing on profitable growth and sales enablement for a global 2,5 B€ corporation (chemicals) and led and successfully delivered change management initiatives in 20+ projects in EMEA, AMER and APAC.

Thought leader and passionate about value-based selling

Author of the book: "Master The Art of Value-based Selling"

In his private life: Married and father to two kids aged 21 and 14. He loves bouldering and cooking.







A Selection of Our Customers

















































































































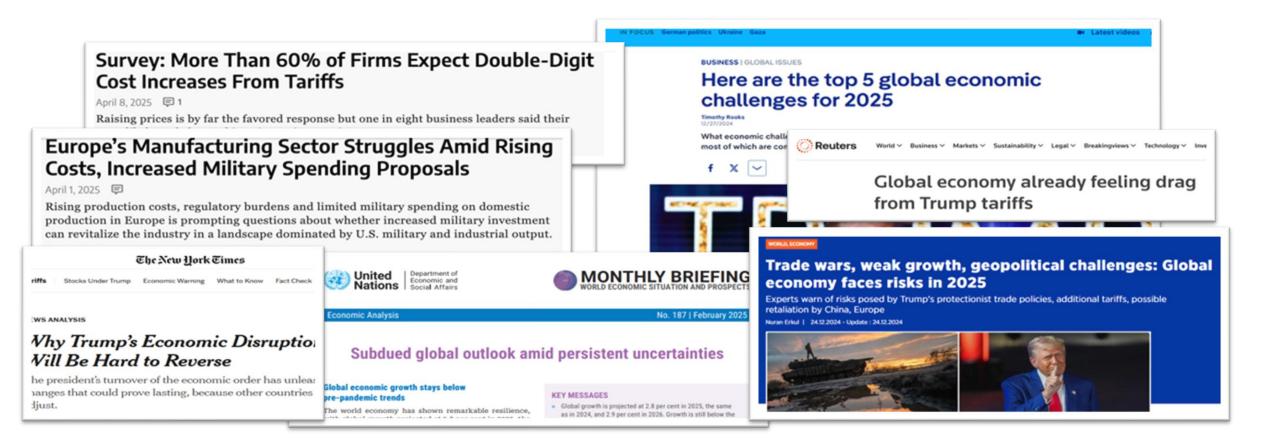




How to Deal with Challenging Market Conditions and Uncertainty











87% of companies are navigating significant pricing pressure, a challenge that has intensified over the past two years.

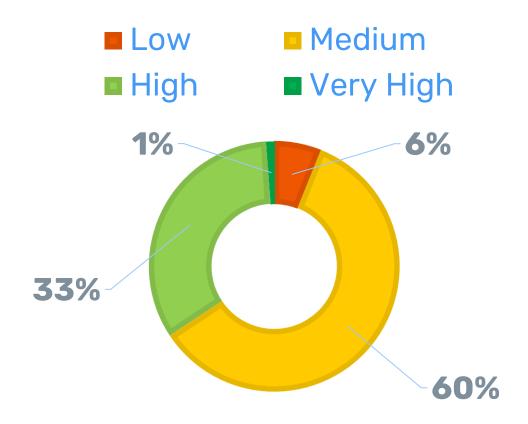
Source: Double Loop / Valuebizbooster Survey (2025)





In Our Survey, the Majority Lacked Pricing Power







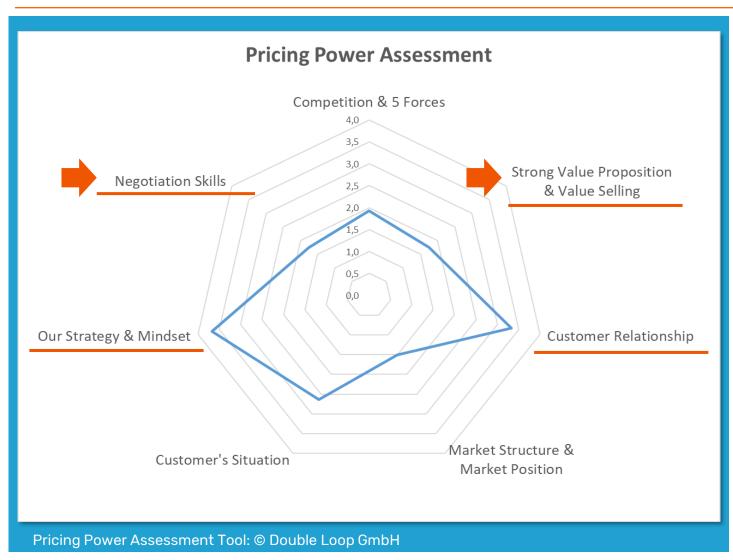
- ∞ Appr. 40% believe that they have high pricing power.
- ∞ There's significant room for improving pricing power.



What Can Give You Pricing Power?





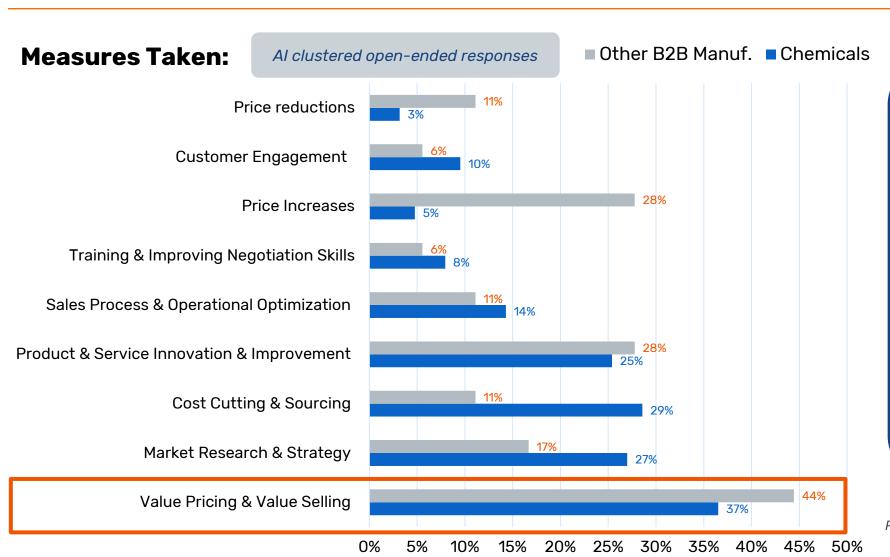


Market Structure & Market Position		l rather lisagree			l fully agree
Competition & 5 Forces		l rather disagree			l fully agree
Customer's Situation		l rather disagree			l fully agree
Value Proposition		l rather disagree			l fully agree
Negotiation Skills	I rather disagree			l fully agree	Weight
Our sales team has outstanding negotiation skills .	0	•	0	0	3
Our sales people understand how much pricing power they have.	0	0	•	0	2
Our sales people understand how buyers and procurement professionals think and act.	0	•	0	0	1
Our sales people know exactly how to sell the value we are providing.	•	0	0	0	1
Our sales people know how to handle price objections.	0	•	0	0	1
Our sales people know when and how to offer concessions.	•	0	0	0	1
Our sales people know how to deal with psychological techniques (like anchoring or framing) to influence price perception.	•	0	0	0	1
Our sales people know how to negotiate under high pressure and stress and how to deal with procurement tactics.	•	0	0	0	1
Our sales people know how to master fundamental negotiation techniques and concepts, like asking questions, active listening, BATNA, the Harvard concept, etc.	•	0	0	0	1
1,00 2,00 3,00			4,00		
Disagreement: Low Pricing Power Full Agreement: High Pricing Power					



What Measures Do Companies Take to Cope with Pricing Pressure?







- ∨ Value-driven strategies lead the way.
- ∇alue Selling and Value
 Pricing seem to be the most relevant countermeasures to cope with pricing pressure.

Source: Double Loop / Valuebizbooster, Industrial B2B Pricing Pressure Survey with 84 participants (Feb 2025)



This Leads Us to Our Value Selling Initiative and Study



That's why we took a closer look - to better understand:

- How exactly are companies putting Value Selling into practice?
- What benefits are they seeing?
- What kinds of challenges are they facing?
- And what advice would they give to others just starting their Value Selling journey?
- Thanks to the input from 50+ companies, we now have real-world insights worth sharing today.





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Demographics



■ Large (>

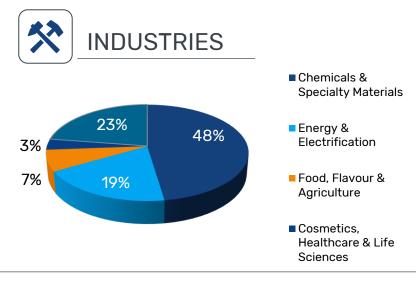
10000)

Medium (1000- 10000)

■ Small (< 1000)

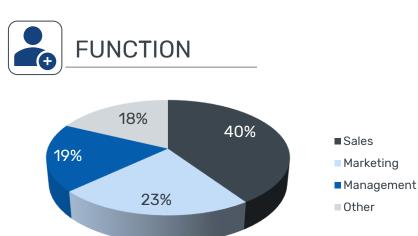


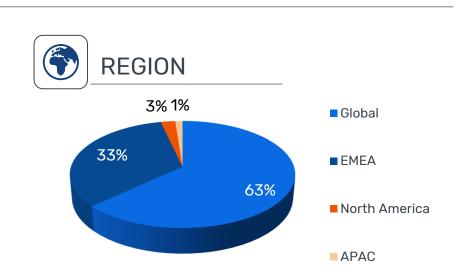






31%









Steve Laborda

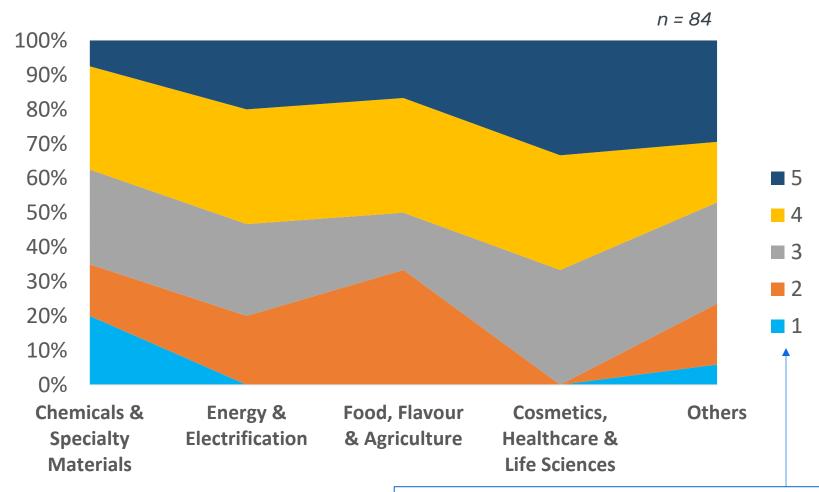


What actions do companies take in value selling?



How Differentiating Is Your Business?





- Highlights

- ∞ Level of differentiation seems to vary between different industries.
- Mow different your offer is can influence how you sell it.

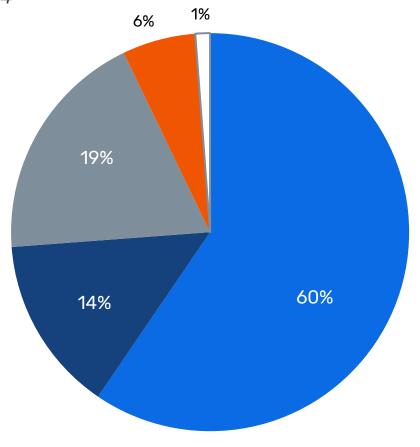
1 = mainly commoditized to 5 = mainly specialized



How Many Are Doing Value Selling?







- Yes, but it is only one of several selling methods we are using
- Yes, it is the main selling method we are using
- No, but we are planning to do Value Selling in the near future
- No and we are not planning to do Value Selling in the near future
- No answer

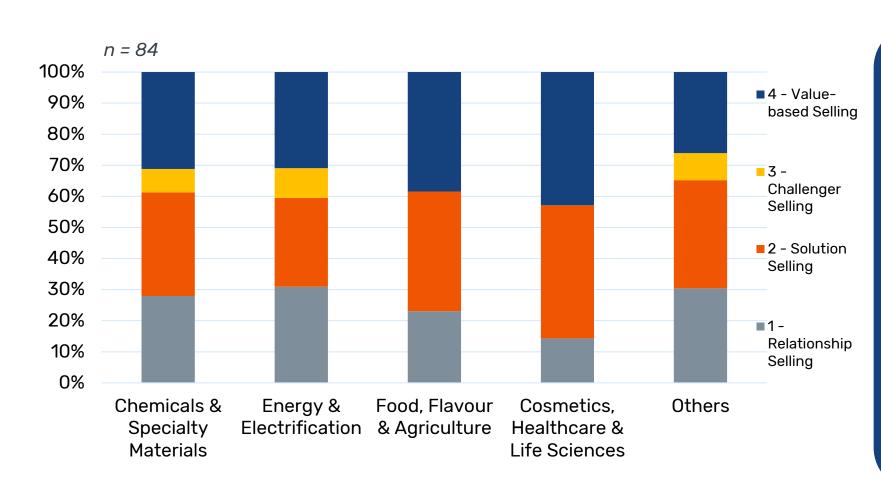


- 74 % of the respondents are using Value Selling. And most of them combine it with Value Pricing.
- No significant difference across industries
- ∞ Only 6% consider Value Selling irrelevant.



What Other Sales Methods Are People Using?





- Highlights

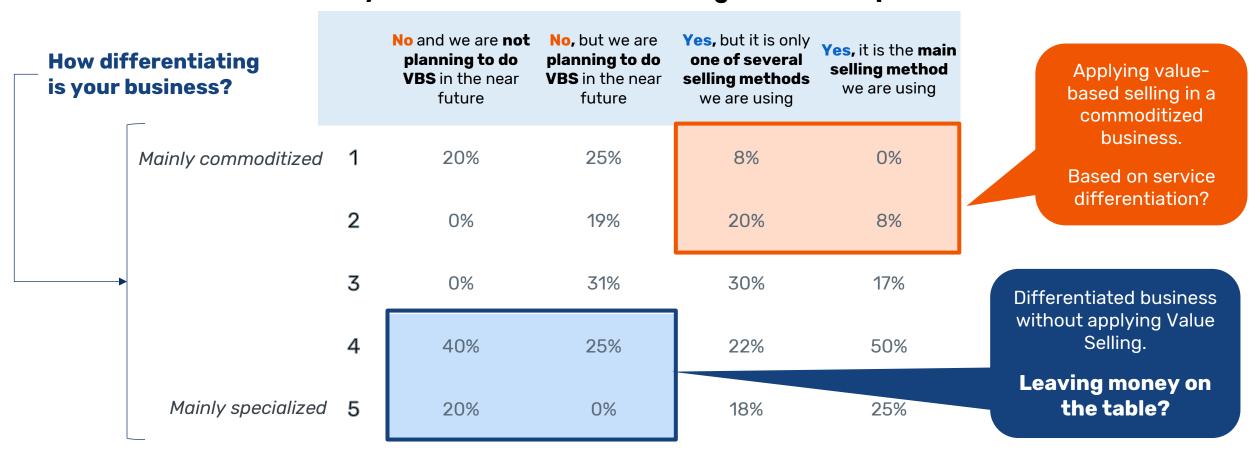
- ∞ No big difference across industries.
- ∞ Only a few companies use the Challenger Sale method.
- Level of Value Selling appli- cation seems to be underestimated here, compared to previous answers.



Are They Leaving Money On The Table?



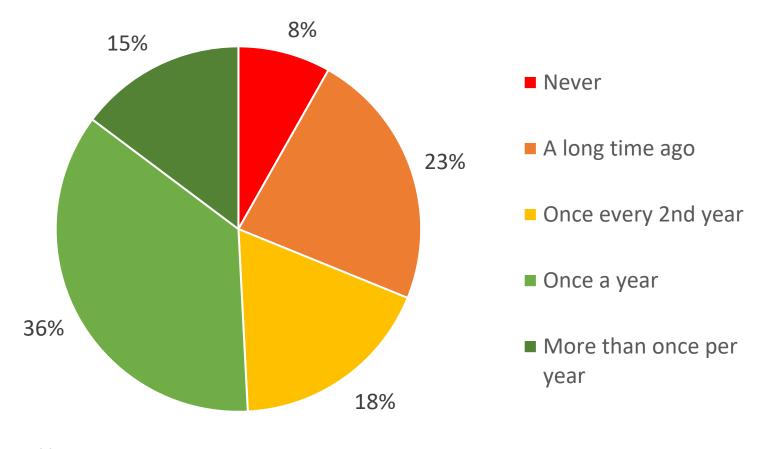
Do you have a value-based selling initiative in place? n = 84





What Is the Frequency of Value Selling Training for Your Commercial Teams?





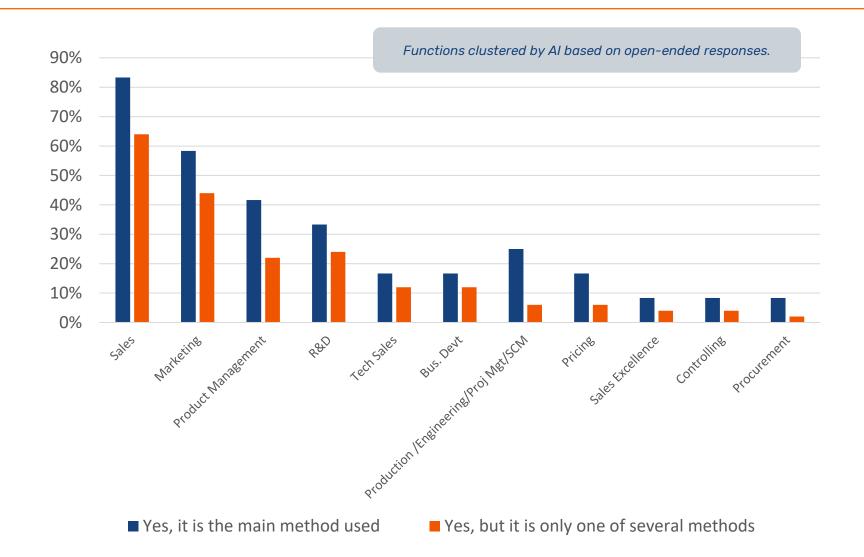




Which Functions Are Directly Involved in Your Value Selling Process?





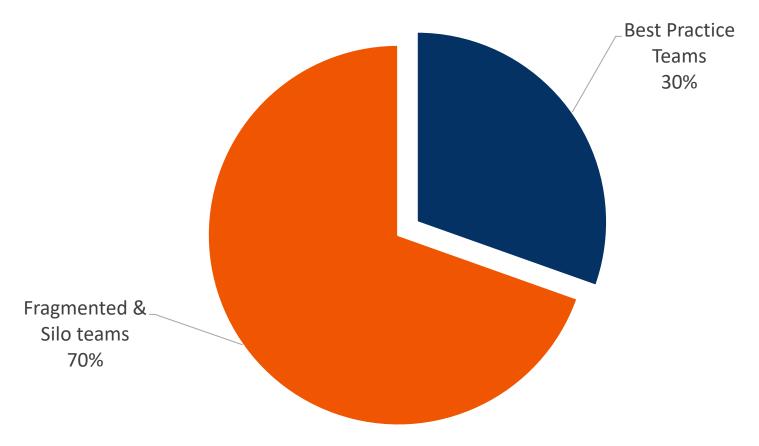


- Highlights
- Mainly Sales and Marketing /
 Product Management are
 involved in Value Selling.
- ∞ Technical functions are less involved!
- ∞ Companies using Value Selling as main sales method have a higher involvement of the different functions.



Which Functions Are Directly Involved in Your Value Selling Process?





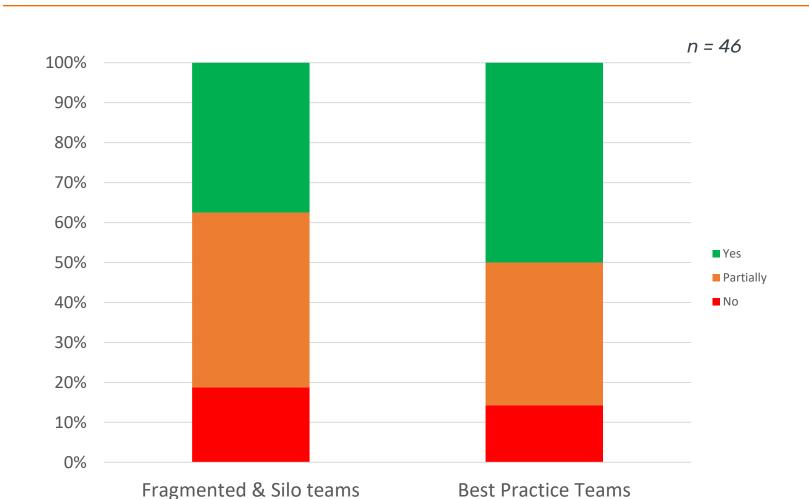


- ∞ Only 30% have teams in place that include at least Sales, Marketing and/or Product Management, and technical functions ("Best Practice Teams").
- ∞ 70% of the teams are missing one of these functions.



Do You and Your Teams Feel Well-equipped to Handle the Current Pricing Pressure?







∞ "Best Practice" Value
Selling* teams feel better
equipped to deal with
pricing pressure than
Fragmented & Silo teams.

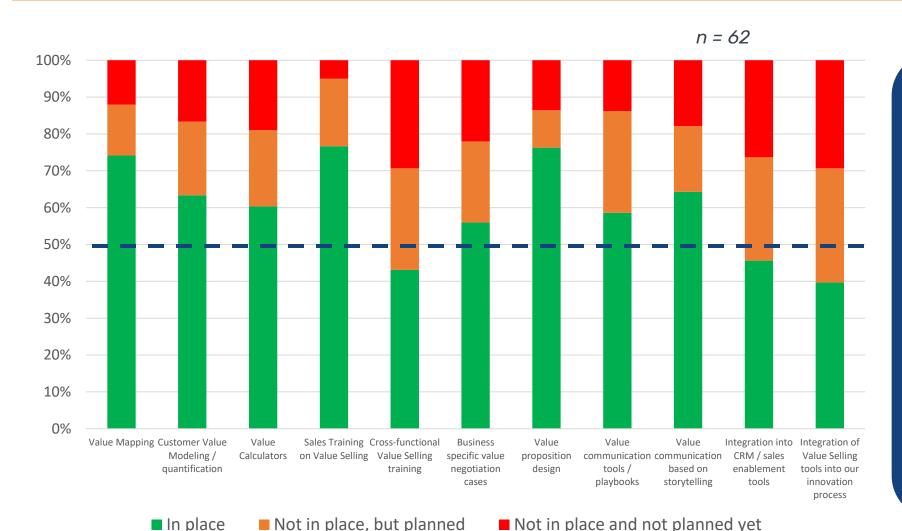
* Teams that include Sales, Marketing and technical functions



Which Elements of Value Selling Are Implemented in Your Process?









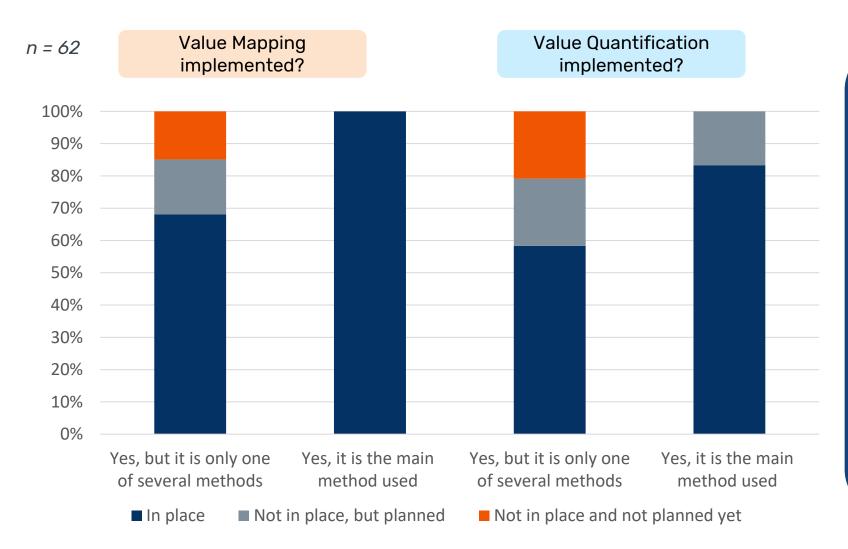
- Many tools are in place, including value quantification and Value Selling trainings.
- Mowever, many trainings are not x-functional!
- Also integration into CRM / sales enablement tools and integration of Value Selling into innovation process lag behind!



Use of Value Mapping and Value Quantification Depending on Whether Value Selling Is the Only Method or One of Several









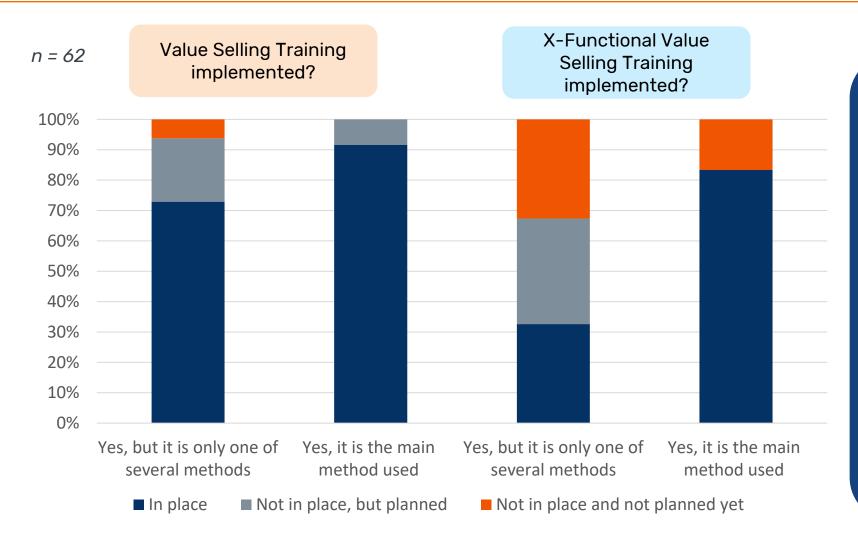
- When Value Selling is one of several methods, more than 30% - 40% don't do Value Mapping and Value Quantification!



Use of Value Selling Trainings Depending on Whether Value Selling Is the Only Method or One of Several









- When companies focus on Value Selling as the only sales method, they do more training and especially more x-functional training.
- when Value Selling is one of several sales methods, companies rarely invest in cross-functional training.

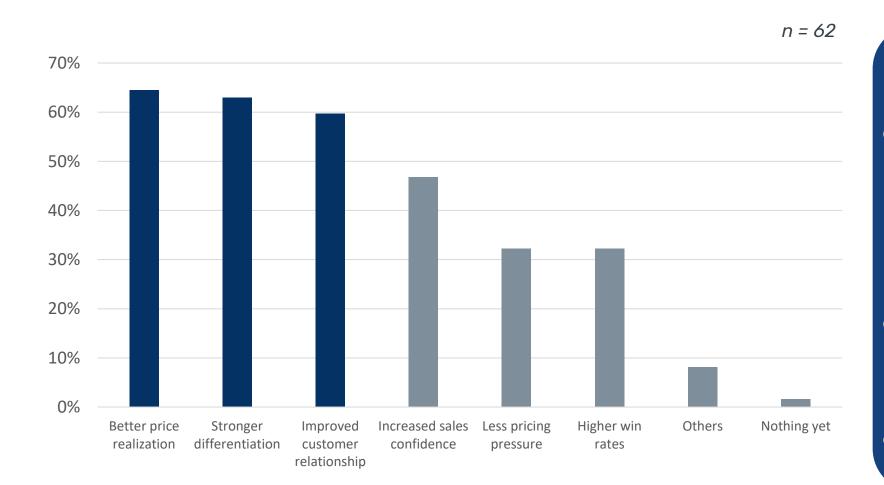




What Benefits Have You Seen From Implementing Value Selling?









- - 1) Better price realization
 - 2) Stronger differentiation
 - 3) Improved customer relationship
- ∞ Pricing pressure doesn't disappear – but companies manage to realize prices more effectively with Value Selling.
- No big difference across functions.

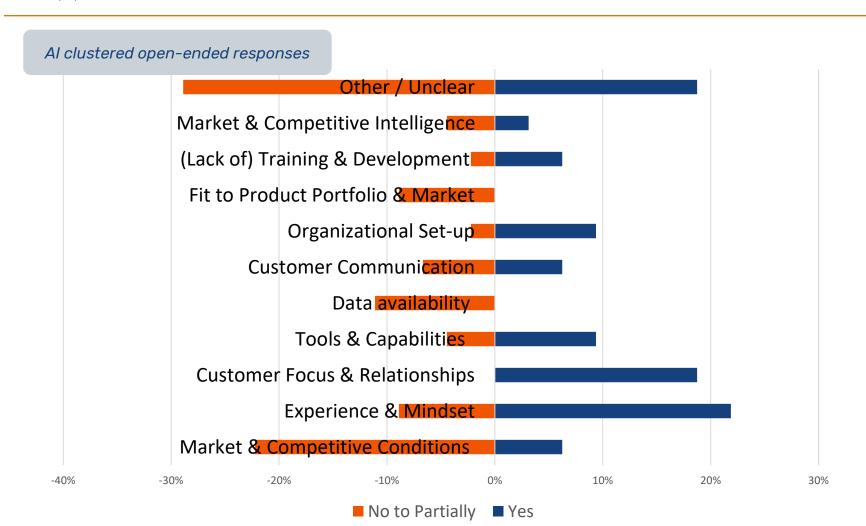


Why Do You and Your Sales Teams Feel Wellequipped to Handle the Current Pricing Pressure?



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· 💇 Highlights

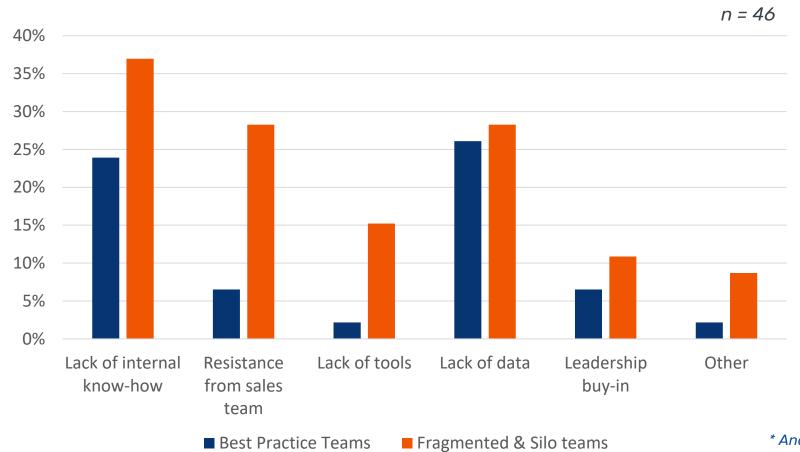
- ∞ Companies who don't feel well equipped mainly mention external factors as reasons: market conditions and competition. In addition: data availability and other reasons.





Based on Your Experience: Where Do You See the Biggest Challenge in Implementing Value Selling?







- Lack of know-how and data seem to be the biggest challenges, followed by resistance from Sales.
- ∞ Many additional individual challenges were mentioned. *

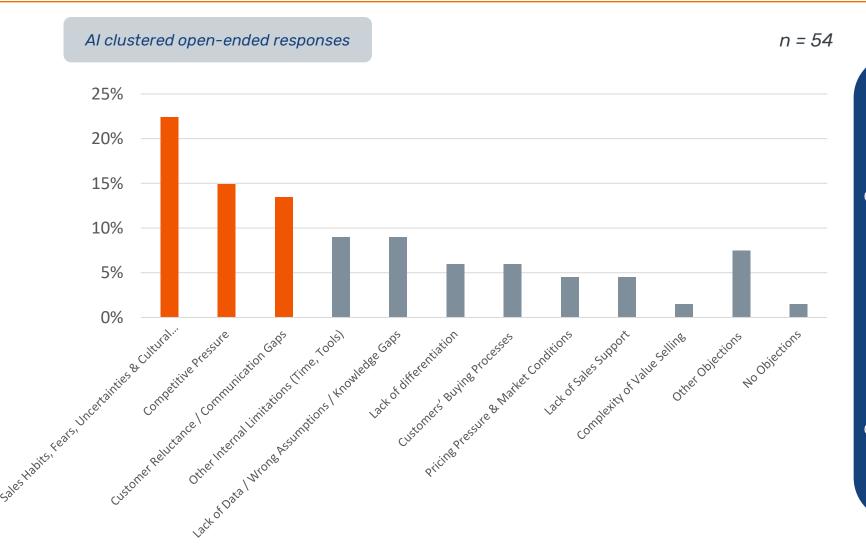
^{*} Analysis of real customer value, confidentiality of data needed, customer's short-term view, customers financial capabilities, importance of customer and ultimately market circumstances as well as old mindset from sales team.



Sales Objections









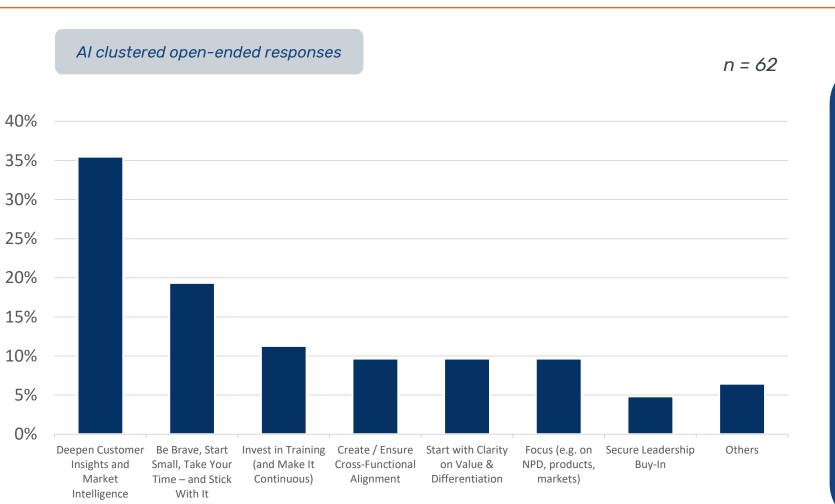
- The TOP 3 objections are related to very typical barriers, related to
 - 1) Own behavior
 - 2) Competitor behavior
 - 3) Customer behavior
- ∞ All main functions agree that sales resistance is the biggest challenge.



What Would You Recommend to Other B2B Companies Starting Their Value Selling Journey?







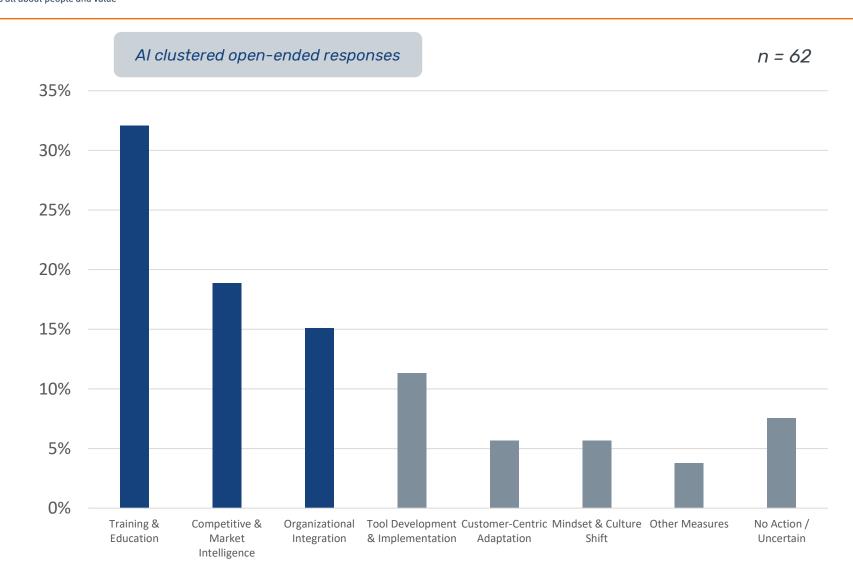


- ∞ The TOP 3 recommendations:
 - Deepen customer & market insights
 - Develop a Value Selling mindset
 - o Invest into training
- ∞ Few respondents mentioned
 X-functional alignment as a recommendation.



What Are Your Next Steps in Developing Value Selling Capabilities?







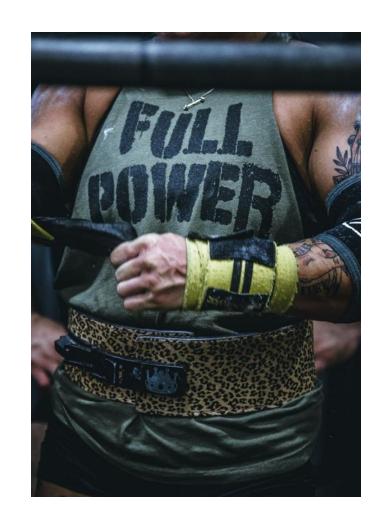
- Trainings and further education is the TOP 1 priority across all the different roles.
- ∞ Followed by competitive and market intelligence.



Summary 1/2



- 1. 74 % of the respondents say that they are using Value Selling and Value Pricing, leading to better price realization, stronger differentiation, improved customer relationship and a lot more benefits.
- 2. There are many VS elements in place, including value quantification and Value Selling trainings. However, many trainings are not x-functional!
- **3. Mainly Sales and Marketing / Product Management are involved** in Value Selling. Technical functions are only involved in 30% of the Value Selling teams.
- 4. However, with these x-functional teams companies feel better equipped to deal with pricing pressure.
- 5. Integration of Value Selling into CRM / sales enablement tools and integration of Value Selling into innovation processes are less common.

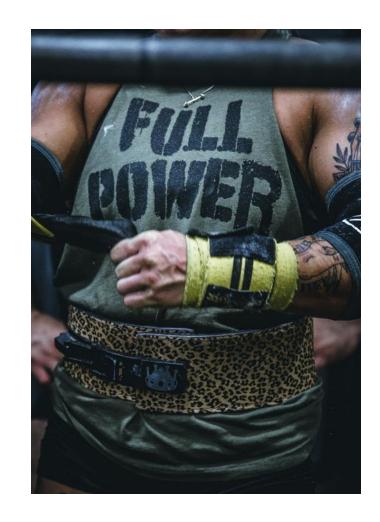




Summary 2/2



- 6. Reasons for feeling well-equipped to handle pricing pressure: Customer focus, experience, mind-set, tools, capabilities and organizational set-up.
- 7. Companies that don't feel well-equipped mainly mention external factors as reasons: market conditions and competition.
- 8. Sales objections against Value Selling are related to sales habits, fear, uncertainties and cultural resistance, competitive pressure, customer reluctance and communication gaps.
- 9. The TOP 3 recommendations for companies that start their Value Selling journey: Deepen customer & market insights, cevelop a Value Selling mindset, invest into training.
- **10. As a next step,** trainings and further education is the TOP 1 priority, followed by competitive and market intelligence.





Conclusions



- Value Selling works!
- Especially with cross-functional teams that involve Sales, Marketing and technical functions!
- However, there is too much focus on Marketing & Sales and too little involvement of technical functions in the Value Selling teams and trainings.
- Integration of Value Selling into CRM / sales enablement tools and integration of Value Selling into innovation processes is missing in too many cases.
- Developing a Value Selling mindset is key, as there are many objections.
- Training and education remain top priority.





Agenda



Steve Laborda



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Value Selling: Our Understanding

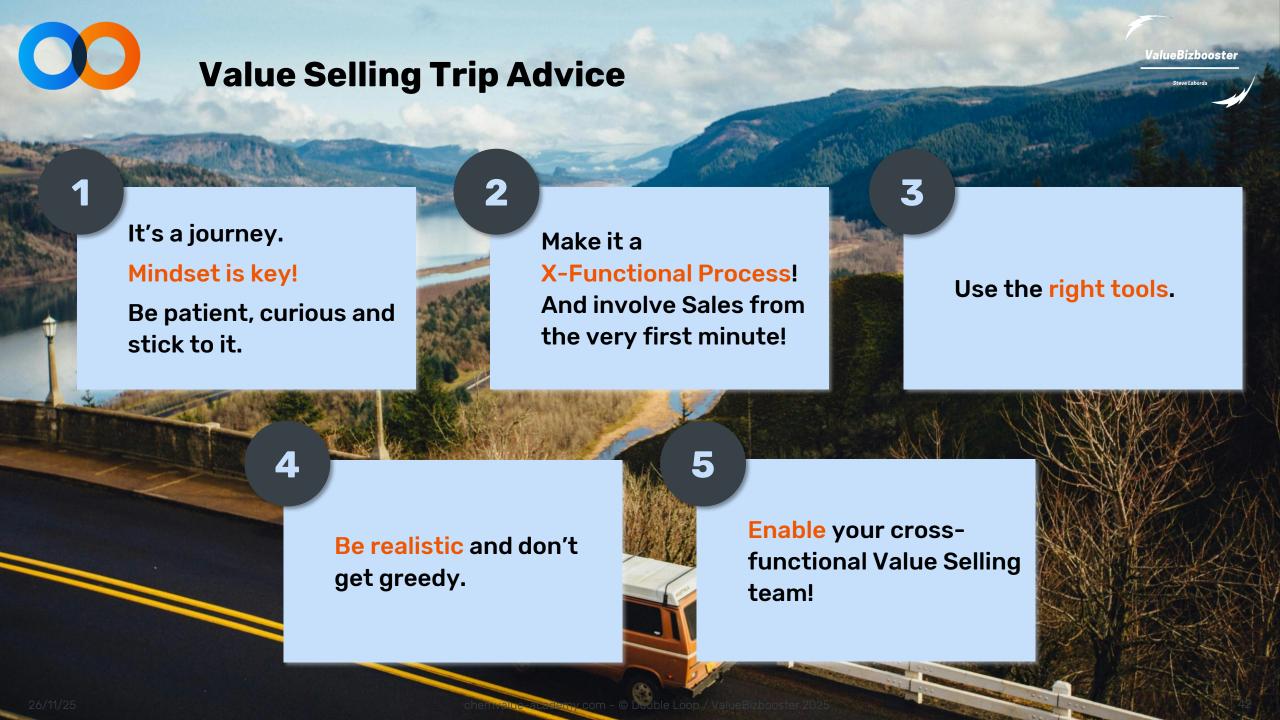


In a nutshell, Value Selling is a sales method focused on understanding and demonstrating the unique value your products and solutions provide to your customers.

And making money with it.

(Instead of primarily focusing on price and features.)









Value Selling is a Never-ending Journey. And Not a Sausage!



The bad news: Value Selling isn't as simple as a sausage.

A sausage is straightforward: start at one end, finish at the other. Value Selling? It's a never-ending journey – not a quick meal.

You can't just "make" Value Selling and be done with it.

It's about mindset!

It takes alignment, consistency, smart tools, and a whole lot of crossfunctional learning across markets, customers, competition, and value chains.

But it's far more effective – especially when you're facing pricing pressure and not living on a profit diet.





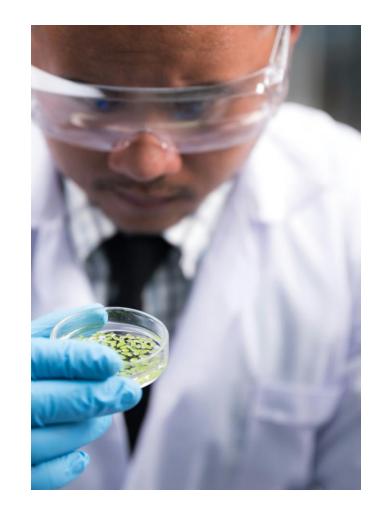


Technical Functions – Why They Matter in Value Selling



Technical Functions ...

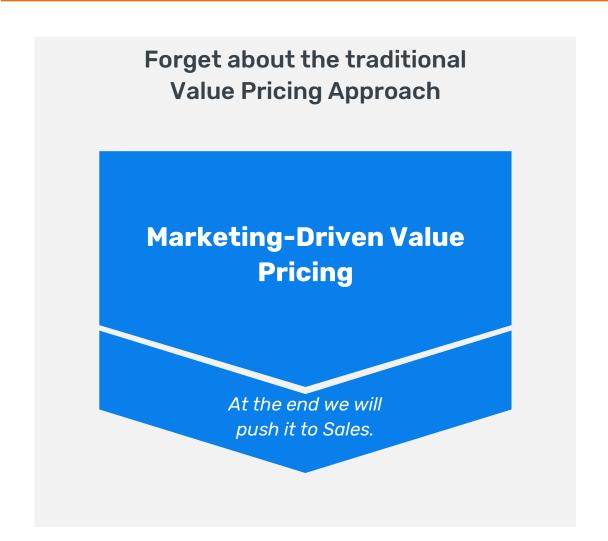
- Mow the customer and how they apply our products
- OBEST understand how our products perform in the customer's application, along with key challenges and pain points
- Talk to counterparts with functional, not commercial, priorities making technical credibility crucial
- O Help uncover hidden value drivers and application-specific benefits
- Build trust through expertise, not sales talk
- Enable joint problem-solving that strengthens long-term partnerships

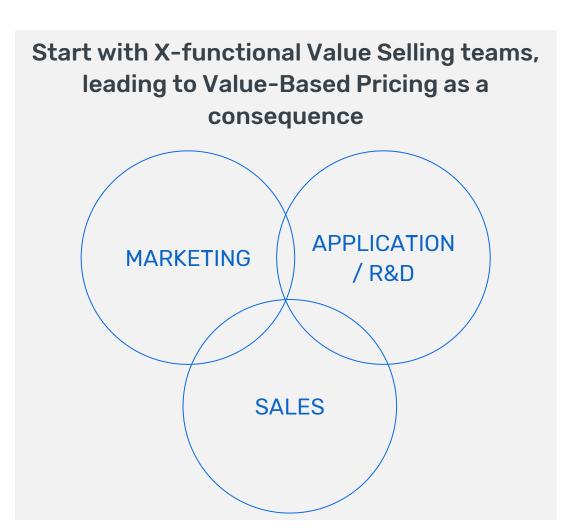


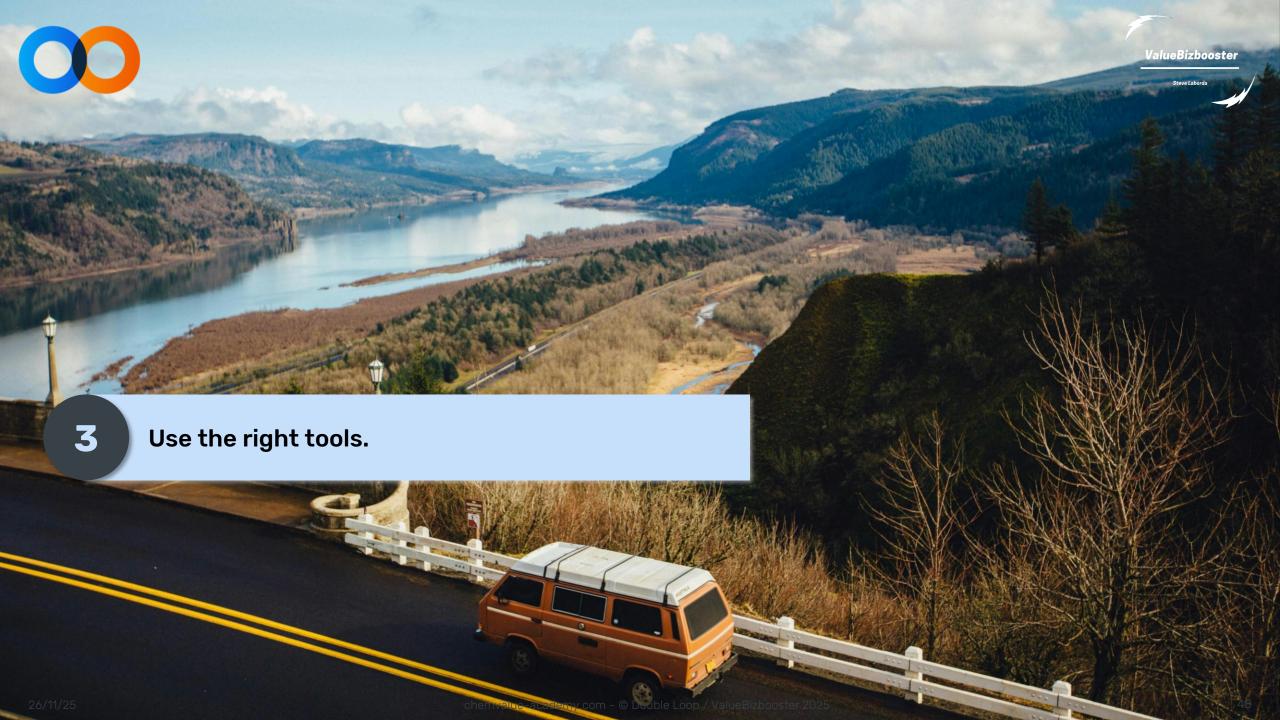


Make It a X-Functional Process! And Involve Sales From the Very First Minute!









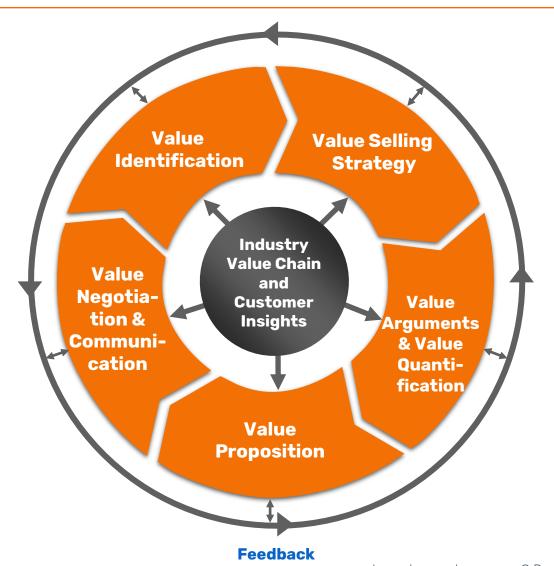


The Double Loop Value Selling Process



Steve Laborda





The DL Value Selling Process / Wheel

Value Identification:

Creating insights: Understanding and appreciating customer needs and willingness to pay along the value chain.
Understanding customer's applications and processes as well as the true NBA (Next Best Alternative).

Value Selling Strategy:

Defining Value Selling direction and objectives: Increasing margins or growing volumes or top line? Deciding on price-value-positioning

Value Arguments & Value Quantification:

Defining value argumentation, **quantifying the value** for the customer incl. **Value Cards** and tailoring of value arguments

Value Proposition:

Defining value and differentiation from NBA in a UVP statement

Value Negotiation & Communication:

Communicating and negotiating value and price in order to win the deal by selling the price instead of selling by price.



There Are Many Tools Along the **Value Selling Process**



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Industry value chain analysis

Understanding customer needs / problems

Questioning Techniques

Customer workshops

Stakeholder analysis & Power Mapping

Tailoring of value arguments and UVP

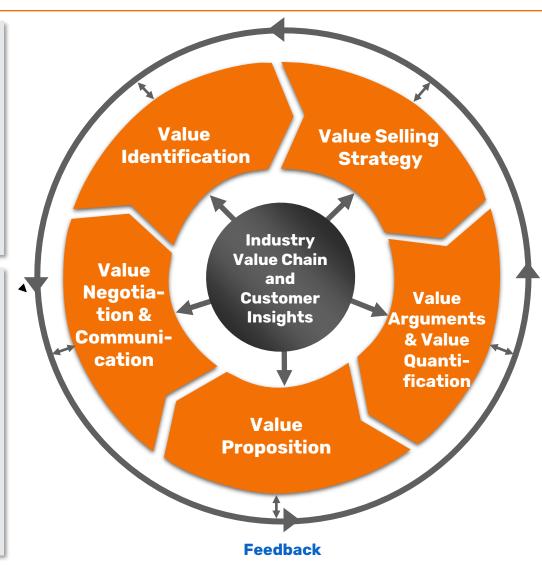
Buying Process Analysis

Stakeholder analysis & Power Mapping

BATNA & concessions

Negotiation & pricing psychology

Marketing communication design



Commodity Index

Price / volume / profit analysis

Value Map: Price / Value Positioning

Value Selling objectives

Value Selling guidance

Value Reports

Value Cards

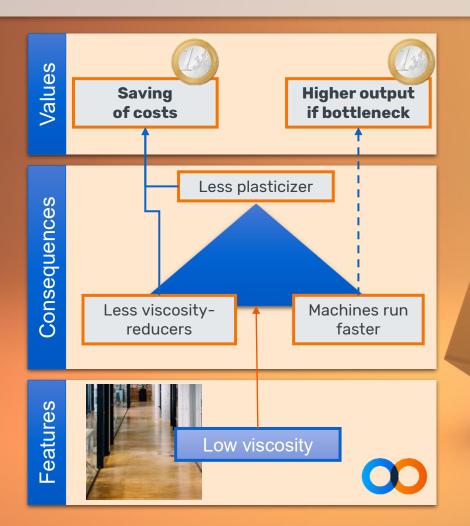
Product tests & data

TCO-based value quantification

UVP definition



Value Cards



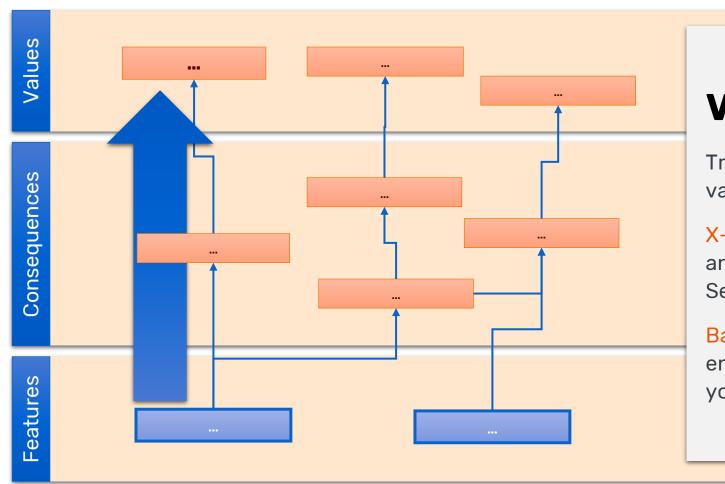
Value Quantification





DL Key Value Selling Tools: Value Card





Value Card:

Translating technical features into customer value by asking **"So What?" - question**.

X-functional development with Marketing, Sales and Application Development / Technical Service / R&D.

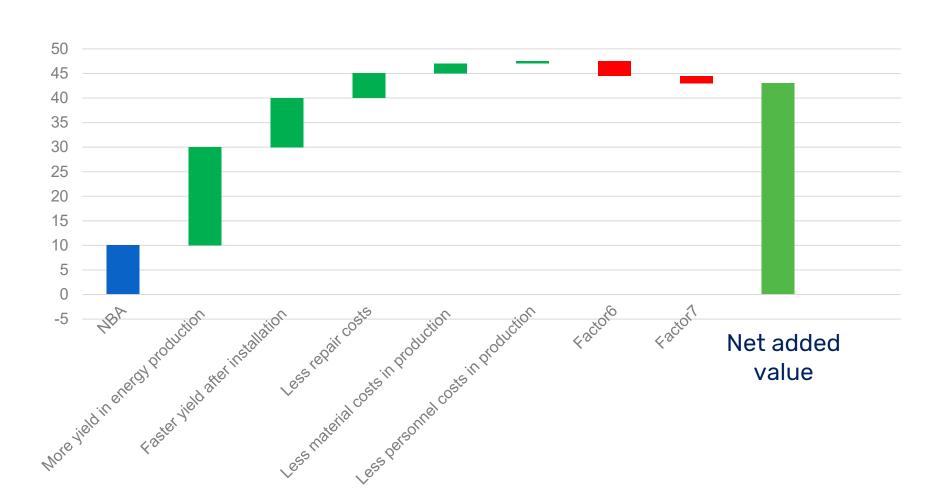
Backbone of your value proposition and your entire value communication incl. the tailoring of your value arguments.





Value Quantification Visualization: Value Waterfall







Visualization of the quantified added value, compared to the NBA*.

This helps you to finally decide on a value-based price and to sell the price.

^{*} NBA = Next Best Alternative



Value Quantification

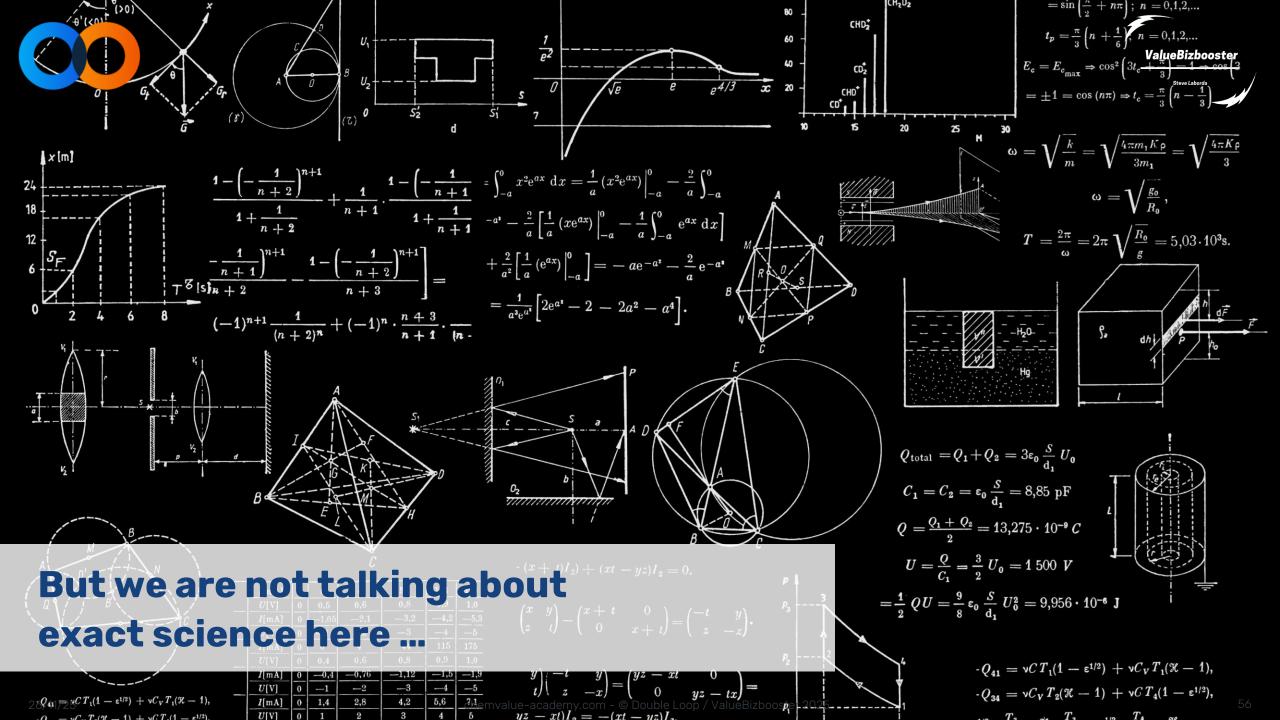


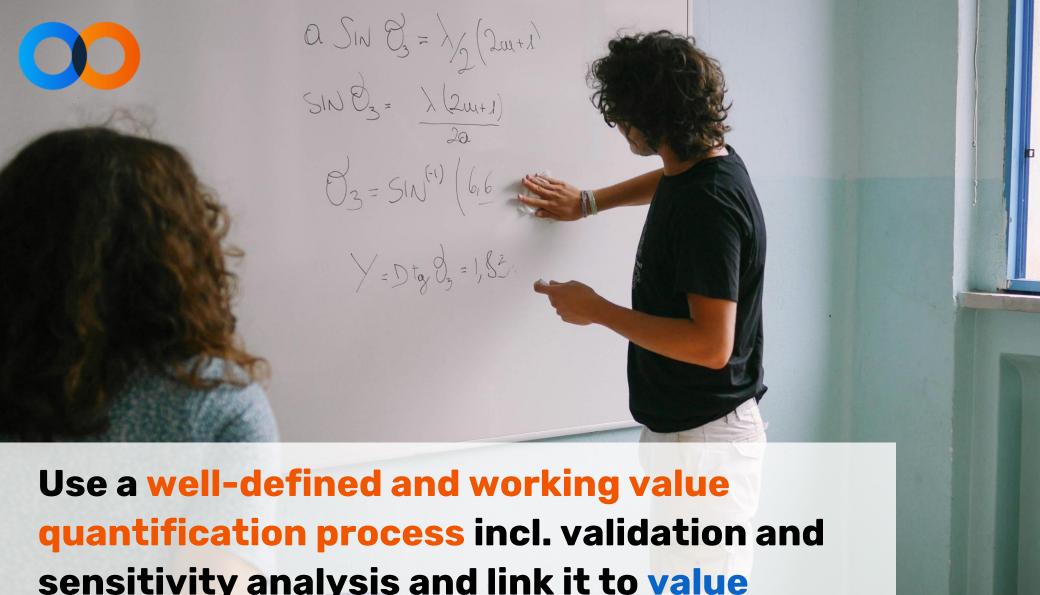


The "coronation" of Value Selling and Value Pricing processes:

- Requires application-specific and customized value calculators.
- Core element of convincing value propositions, and the entire value communication, incl. presentations, sales pitches, and negotiations.
- But challenging: Always specific. Never completed. Never certain.
- A journey.







sensitivity analysis and link it to value proposition and value communication.



Integrate Value Cards and Value Quantification as core components of your phase-gate innovation process.





Be Realistic and Don't Get Greedy - Respect Price Fairness



Personal Fairness

- Above expectation?
- Process different than expected?

Social Fairness: Distributive

- Does the change fit to the value provided?
- Control Legitimate reason?
- Fair compared to prices others are paying?
- Natural reason for it (beyond our control)?
- Don't we take advantage of customer's situation?

Social Fairness: Procedural

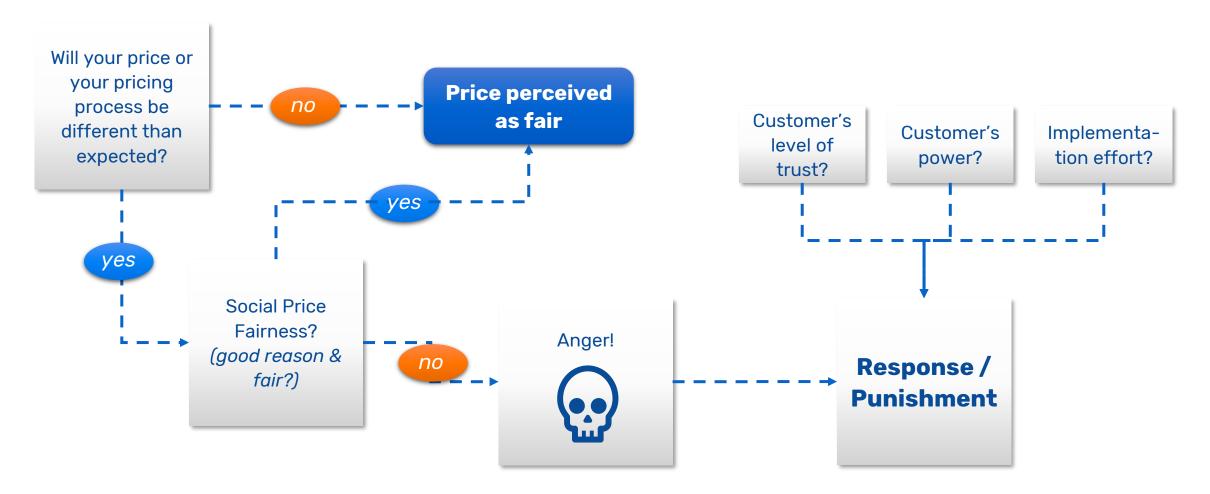
- Can customer influence the price?
- Transparent process?
- Impartial process, not influenced by favoritism?





Be Realistic and Don't Get Gready - Respect Price Fairness





Source: Based on Maxwell (2008): The price is wrong. Understanding what makes a price seem fair and the true cost of unfair pricing, New Jersey 2008.

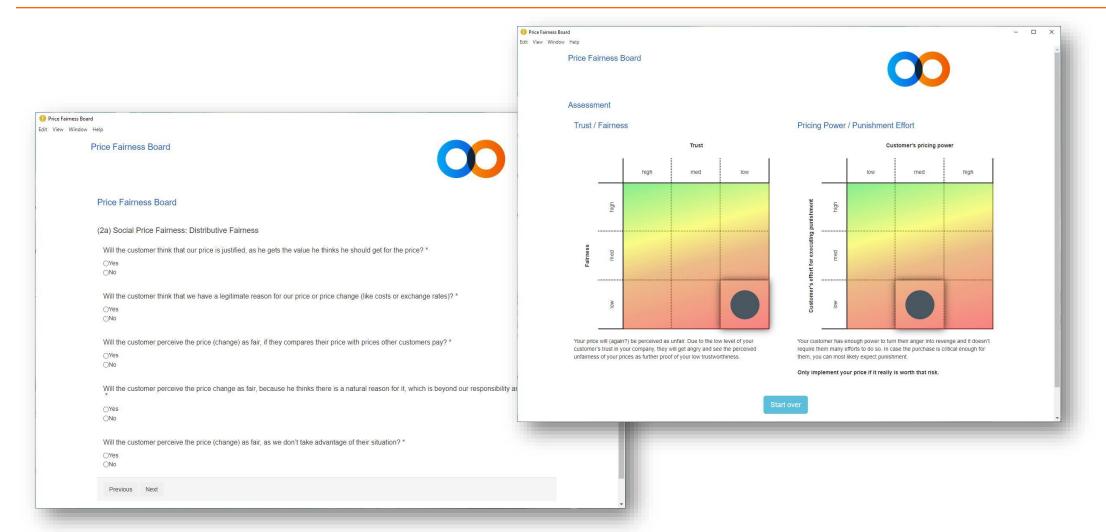


Double Loop Price Fairness Tool

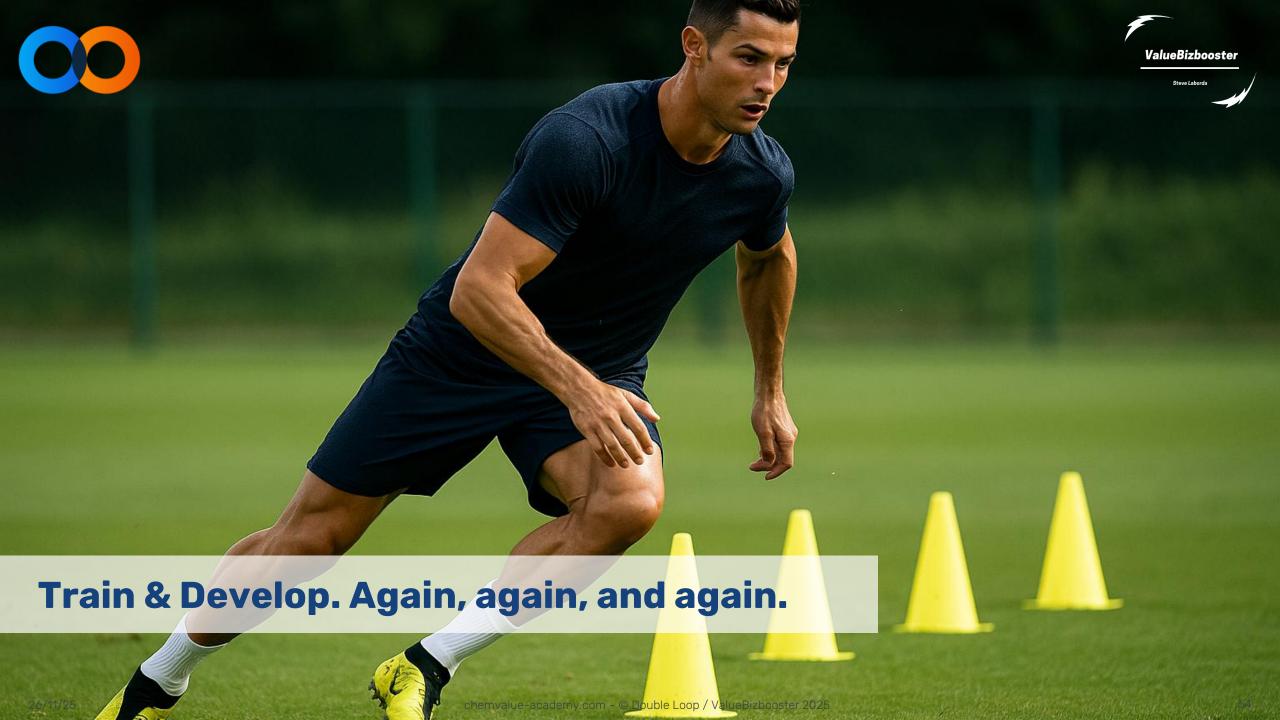


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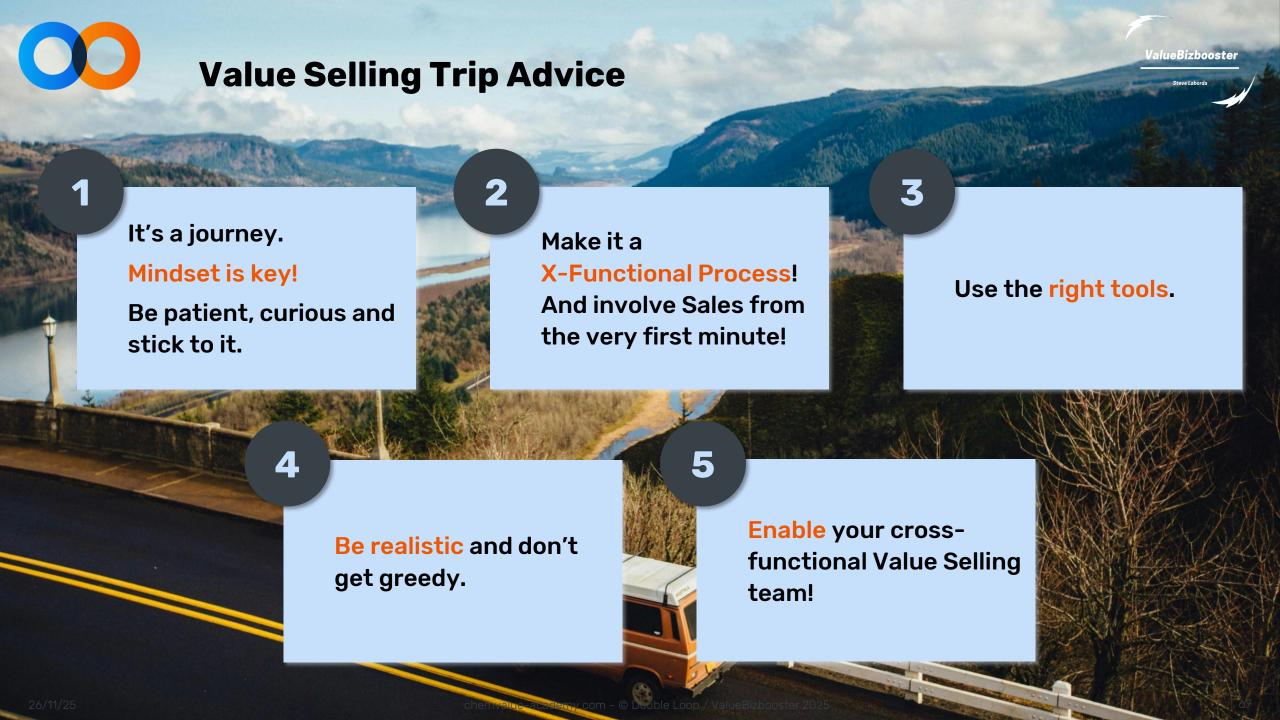






Use external, neutral facilitation, support and challenging.







Agenda



Steve Laborda



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Get in Touch ...



Want to dive deeper into Value Selling — or talk to the people behind this study?

Just reach out.



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