

Food Company Emerges from Bankruptcy



The Company

A Texas-based food company specializing in frozen skillet meals, with an Illinois-based manufacturing facility, built a successful presence in numerous national retail chains. The company buys domestically and imports frozen vegetables, beef, chicken and shrimp to create distinctive frozen meals. Offering high-quality and lower-prices, the company is a popular choice for consumers looking for fast and flavorful meals.

The Situation

Despite 15 years of successful growth, the company fell into distress. Because of lawsuits and conflicts between the ownership and management team, the company was unable to refinance its bank debt in 2007 and filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy in July 2007.

The Solution

A member of the Bridgepoint team was appointed by the court as chief restructuring officer of the company. After evaluating the situation, Bridgepoint was able to effectuate a sale of the company to a private equity firm. In spite of the looming credit crisis of late 2007, the company was able to retain its retail relationships with companies including Wal-Mart, Costco and Trader Joe's; maintain the confidence of its key suppliers; and continue to grow sales during the bankruptcy.
