



## Enterprise Risk Assessments

Companies continually deal with factors that create uncertainty: globalization, technology, restructurings, changing markets, competition, and regulation, to name a few. Uncertainty is also inherent in a company's strategic choices. For example, a company that has a growth strategy based on expanding foreign operations faces risks and opportunities related to stability of the overseas country's political environment, resources, markets, channels, workforce capabilities, and costs.

In today's rapidly changing environment, many in senior management realize that they don't have a good handle on what risks out there could jump up and bite the company. When executives admit that they don't know what dangers are lurking and want to be proactive in avoiding unpleasant (if not disastrous) surprises, they look to gain the advantages associated with Enterprise Risk Management. And to discharge their responsibilities, they turn to Lowers & Associates (L&A) to perform an Enterprise Risk Assessment (ERA).

An ERA identifies and prioritizes an organization's business, operational, and technology risks and provides quality inputs for purposes of formulating effective risk responses, including an analysis of current capabilities around managing risks. As management's strategy evolves, so does the operating environment. New systems, market changes, mergers and personnel turnover all further increase the odds of a changing control environment and are sources of new business risks. A strategy-setting process which is fueled by an annual risk assessment will mitigate the potential disconnects in the operating environment and is "best practice" in today's world.

The L&A Enterprise Risk Assessment process is based upon our over 20 years of experience in assessing threats and vulnerabilities, responding to and investigating high-value and complex crime and fraud losses, and assisting our clients with recoveries of vital assets. Whether it is a Fraud Risk Assessment, a Loss Prevention Program, Incident Response & Investigation, Forensic Analysis, or Fraud Training and Awareness Programs, we are able to improve our client's risk posture and their bottom line.

Corporate integrity is the foundation upon which today's organizations build their wealth and success. By developing an understanding of the threats and vulnerabilities posed by fraud and misconduct, management and corporate officers can develop strategies, programs, and controls to help meet regulatory requirements as well as strengthen and protect enterprise value.

Enterprise Risk Management - enabled by an L&A Enterprise Risk Assessment - provides management with the comfort that they are well-positioned to protect the company's reputation and achieve growth and return objectives, and that they are receiving the information necessary for it to properly carry out their oversight responsibilities.