Research on optimization of steel marketing strategy in China's frontier areas

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Abstract
This paper aims to optimize the marketing strategy of steel products in China's frontier areas. Through the in-depth analysis of the steel market in the frontier area, this paper identifies the existing problems in the current marketing strategy, and combines the regional characteristics and market environment, and puts forward the corresponding optimization strategy. The research adopts many methods, such as market research, data analysis and case study, and comprehensively evaluates the status quo and development trend of steel market in frontier areas. The results show that through strengthening brand publicity, optimizing product mix, perfecting sales channels and improving service quality, the effect of steel marketing in border areas can be effectively improved and the healthy development of the market can be promoted. This study has important theoretical and practical significance for guiding steel enterprises in frontier areas to formulate scientific marketing strategies and improve market competitiveness.

Keywords
China's border areas; Steel marketing; Strategy optimization; Market research; branding.

1. Introduction
With the continuous development of China's economy and the continuous promotion of infrastructure construction, steel, as one of the important raw materials, plays a pivotal role in the national economy. However, in the vast border areas of China, steel marketing faces many challenges due to the remote geographical location and relatively low level of economic development. Therefore, it is of great practical significance to study the optimization of steel marketing strategy in frontier areas.

As the gateway and strategic place of China, the economic development of border areas is of great significance to the overall security and development of the country. However, due to many reasons such as history and geography, the steel market in the border areas is relatively lagging behind, and the marketing strategy is also more traditional and single. This restricts the development of the steel industry in the border areas to a certain extent, and also affects the balance of the overall steel market in the country.

Therefore, this paper aims to analyze the existing problems and shortcomings of the current marketing strategy through the in-depth study of the steel market in the border area, and put forward targeted optimization suggestions. By optimizing the marketing strategy, it can not only improve the market competitiveness of steel enterprises in border areas, promote the development of local economy, but also contribute to the healthy development of the overall steel market in the country. In the process of research, this paper will comprehensively use market research, data analysis, case studies and other methods, the status quo of steel market in border areas, development trend and marketing strategy for in-depth analysis. At the same time, this paper will combine the actual situation of the border area, put forward a feasible marketing strategy optimization plan, to provide strong theoretical support and practical guidance for the development of steel enterprises in the border area.
2. Status quo and development trend of steel market in China's border areas

China's border areas, including a number of provinces and autonomous regions along the land border and coastline distribution, its unique geographical location and economic development background, so that its steel market has a special status and development trend. In recent years, with the increasing attention of the state to the border areas, the steel market in these areas has also presented new opportunities and challenges for development.

2.1. Status quo of steel market in China's border areas

Market size and structure. The steel market in frontier areas is relatively small, but shows a steady growth trend. Due to the remote location and inconvenient transportation, the steel market in these areas is mainly based on local demand, while it is also affected by the radiation of surrounding areas. In terms of product structure, construction steel and industrial steel are the main components of the steel market in Xinjiang, of which the demand for construction steel occupies a dominant position.

Market competition pattern. The steel market competition pattern in border areas is relatively scattered, and local steel enterprises and foreign steel enterprises coexist. Local iron and steel enterprises have a certain market share in the local market by virtue of geographical advantages and brand influence; While foreign steel enterprises continue to expand their market share in border areas through product quality and price advantages. In addition, some large steel enterprises have further strengthened their market layout in border areas by setting up branch plants or sales outlets.

Market supply and demand conditions. The market supply and demand of steel products in border areas is generally balanced, but there is an imbalance of supply and demand in local areas and specific periods. On the one hand, with the progress of national infrastructure construction and urbanization, the demand for steel in border areas continues to increase; On the other hand, due to the excess steel production capacity and the restrictions of environmental protection policies, the production of some iron and steel enterprises has been affected to a certain extent, resulting in fluctuations in market supply.

2.2. Development trend of steel market in China's border areas

The market scale will continue to expand. As the state's support for the economic development of border areas continues to increase, the infrastructure construction, urbanization process and industrial upgrading in these areas will accelerate, and the demand for steel will continue to increase. At the same time, with the in-depth implementation of the "Belt and Road" Initiative, the border areas as an important window of opening up, its steel market will also usher in a broader space for development.

The market competition will be more intense. With the expansion of the market scale and the continuous influx of foreign steel enterprises, the steel market competition in border areas will be more fierce. Steel enterprises need to continuously improve product quality and service level, strengthen brand building and market promotion to win market share and customer trust. Meanwhile, the government will also strengthen supervision and regulation of the steel industry to promote its healthy development.

The industrial structure will be continuously optimized. Driven by environmental protection policies and technological innovation, the steel industrial structure in border areas will be continuously optimized. On the one hand, steel enterprises will increase investment in environmental protection to improve production efficiency and product quality; On the other hand, the steel industry will strengthen its coordinated development with upstream and downstream industries to promote the optimization and upgrading of the industrial chain. In
addition, some new steel materials and technologies will also be gradually applied to the steel market in border areas, bringing new development opportunities for the industry.

Market diversification and personalized demand will increase. With the economic development of border areas and the improvement of people’s living standards, the market demand for steel will show diversified and personalized characteristics. Iron and steel enterprises need to pay close attention to changes in market demand, flexibly adjust product structure and production strategies to meet the individual needs of customers. At the same time, enterprises should also strengthen market research and forecast, and lay out new market areas and product directions in advance.

International cooperation and exchanges will be strengthened. As the frontier areas are at the forefront of China’s opening up, their steel markets will be more closely linked to the international market. Steel enterprises will strengthen cooperation and exchanges with foreign enterprises, introduce advanced technology and management experience, and improve their international competitiveness. At the same time, enterprises should also actively participate in international market competition, expand overseas markets and achieve international development.

To sum up, although the steel market in China’s border areas is relatively small at present, it has great potential for development. With the increasing support of the state for the economic development of the border areas and the increasing market demand, the steel market in these areas will usher in new development opportunities. Steel enterprises need to seize the opportunity, strengthen innovation and market expansion to achieve sustainable development. At the same time, the government should also strengthen its support and guidance for the steel industry to promote its healthy development and make greater contributions to economic construction and social development in border areas.

3. The problem of steel marketing strategy in China’s border areas

Due to its special geographical location and economic background, the development and implementation of steel marketing strategies in China’s border areas are faced with a series of problems and challenges. These problems not only affect the market competitiveness of steel enterprises, but also restrict the healthy development of steel market in border areas. This article will be from the market environment, product strategy, price strategy, channel strategy and promotion strategy, the Chinese border area steel marketing strategy issues are deeply discussed.

3.1. Problems of market environment

The steel market in the border area is affected by multiple factors such as geographical location, economic development level and market demand, and the market environment is relatively complex. First of all, the transportation in the border area is inconvenient and the logistics cost is high, which makes the transportation and distribution of steel products face great difficulties. Secondly, the economic development of the border areas is relatively backward, the market demand is relatively small, and the characteristics of imbalance, which brings challenges to the market positioning and product strategy formulation of steel enterprises. In addition, there are certain uncertainties and risks in the policies, regulations and market competition environment in the border areas, which bring certain difficulties to the formulation and implementation of marketing strategies for steel enterprises.

3.2. Problems in product strategy

In the marketing of steel products in frontier areas, the formulation of product strategy is a key issue. First of all, the border area of the steel market demand is diversified, but some iron and steel enterprises lack of market research and product innovation ability, product homogeneity
is serious, can not meet the individual needs of the market. Secondly, some enterprises have insufficient investment in product quality and brand building, resulting in weak product competitiveness and difficulty in standing out in the market. In addition, with the increasingly strict environmental protection policies, some iron and steel enterprises in the product environmental performance failed to meet the standard requirements, affecting the market competitiveness of the product.

3.3. Problems in pricing strategy
Price strategy is one of the core issues in steel marketing. In the border areas, due to the fierce market competition, some enterprises in order to compete for market share, take the strategy of low price competition, resulting in the profit space is compressed, and even fall into the loss situation. At the same time, some enterprises lack scientific basis and market research in pricing, and the price adjustment lags behind, unable to reflect the market changes in a timely manner, affecting the profitability of enterprises. In addition, the formulation of price strategies also needs to consider factors such as cost control, channel profits and brand image, which puts higher requirements on the management level and decision-making ability of enterprises.

3.4. Problems of channel strategy
Channel strategy is an important link in steel marketing. In the border areas, due to the remote location and small market scale, steel enterprises have relatively limited sales channels. Some enterprises rely too much on traditional sales models, such as dealers and agents, and lack exploration and development of emerging sales channels. At the same time, some enterprises have insufficient investment in channel management and maintenance, resulting in low channel efficiency, and even channel conflicts and out-of-control situations. In addition, with the rapid development of the Internet and e-commerce, steel enterprises in border areas also need to strengthen the construction and management of online sales channels to adapt to the new changes in the market.

3.5. Problems in promotion strategy
Promotion strategy is one of the key means in steel marketing. In frontier areas, because of the fierce market competition and the diversification of consumer demand, the formulation and implementation of promotion strategy is particularly important. However, some enterprises lack innovation and pertinence in promotion strategy, and the promotion means are single and the effect is not good. At the same time, some enterprises pursue short-term benefits too much in the promotion activities, ignoring the building of brand image and the maintenance of long-term customer relations. In addition, factors such as cost control and market risk need to be considered in the formulation of promotion strategies, which puts forward higher requirements on the decision-making ability and market sensitivity of enterprises.

To sum up, there are many problems and challenges in the marketing strategy of steel products in China's border areas. In order to solve these problems, steel enterprises need to strengthen the ability of market research and product innovation, and formulate scientific market positioning and product strategy; At the same time, reasonable pricing strategy, strengthen cost control and brand building; In addition, it is necessary to expand sales channels, strengthen channel management and maintenance; Finally, develop innovative and targeted promotion strategies to enhance brand image and customer relations. Through the implementation of these measures, steel enterprises can continuously improve market competitiveness and promote the healthy development of steel market in border areas.
4. Methods to enhance the effect of steel marketing in frontier areas

4.1. In-depth understanding of market demand and competitive situation

First of all, steel enterprises in border areas need to deeply investigate the market demand, understand the local infrastructure construction, industrial development and consumer demand, so as to accurately locate the target market. At the same time, the analysis of competitors’ product characteristics, price strategies and market shares and other information is helpful for enterprises to develop more targeted marketing strategies.

4.2. Optimize product mix and improve product quality

According to the market demand and competitive situation, enterprises need to optimize the product portfolio and launch steel products that meet the local market demand. At the same time, emphasis should be placed on improving product quality, strengthening technological research and development and innovation, and improving the added value and competitiveness of products.

4.3. Develop flexible pricing strategies

Price is one of the important factors that influence consumers' purchasing decisions. Enterprises need to develop flexible pricing strategies according to market demand, cost and the price situation of competitors. For example, differentiated pricing strategy can be adopted to set different price levels according to different characteristics, uses and market demand of products.

4.4. Expand diversified sales channels

Steel enterprises in border areas should actively expand diversified sales channels, including online and offline channels. Online channels can use e-commerce platforms, social media and other tools for product promotion and sales; Offline channels can establish stable sales channels through cooperation with construction companies and engineering contractors. At the same time, participating in industry exhibitions, holding product promotion meetings and other activities can also help enhance the visibility and influence of enterprises.

4.5. Strengthen brand building and promotion

Brand building is a key link to enhance the effect of steel marketing. Enterprises need to pay attention to the shaping and maintenance of brand image, through advertising, public relations activities and other ways to enhance brand awareness and reputation. At the same time, strengthening customer service, improving customer satisfaction and loyalty, is also an important aspect of brand building.

4.6. Strengthen marketing team building and management

Marketing team is an important force for enterprises to achieve sales targets. Enterprises need to strengthen the construction and management of marketing team, improve the professional quality and sales ability of team members. Through regular training, assessment and incentive measures, stimulate the enthusiasm and creativity of the team members, and provide strong support for the steel marketing work of the enterprise.

To sum up, effectively improving the effect of steel marketing in border areas requires enterprises to work hard in many aspects. Through in-depth understanding of market demand, optimize product mix, formulate flexible price strategy, expand diversified sales channels, strengthen brand building and promotion and strengthen marketing team building and management and other measures, enterprises can continuously improve market competitiveness and achieve better marketing results.
5. Conclusion

To sum up, improving the effect of steel marketing in frontier areas is a complex and systematic project, which requires enterprises to carry out comprehensive policies in multiple dimensions. Through in-depth understanding of market demand and competition situation, enterprises can accurately locate the target market and provide strong support for the formulation of marketing strategies. At the same time, optimizing product mix, improving product quality, and developing flexible pricing strategies are the key to enhance competitiveness. Expanding diversified sales channels, strengthening brand building and promotion, and strengthening marketing team building and management are important guarantees to ensure the maximization of marketing effect.

References