

ESP Solutions Group Sells Largest E-Transcript and Student Record Exchange Provider to Pearson

National Transcript Center elevated electronic transcripts to new level

Austin, Texas, April 9, 2009 — ESP Solutions Group, Inc. (ESP) recently announced that they have completed the sale of the National Transcript Center, Inc. (NTC) to Pearson.

Back in 1989, when student records and transcripts were sent and received in paper format, ESP executives, Glynn D. Ligon, Ph.D. and Barbara S. Clements, Ph.D. were working behind the scenes on the SPEEDE/ExPRESS committee, the first authoritative body to create an electronic transcript standard. Over time, ESP went on to advise more than 30 state education agencies on the design of their statewide student information systems, and in many cases their student record exchange systems.

Until four years ago, the electronic transcript industry had made little progress. Transcripts were being sent electronically, but the data still had to be translated once it was received. ESP seized the opportunity to take student records and transcript exchange to the next level and formed the National Transcript Center. The education community took notice. In this short time, ESP has built a business that serves more than 15,000 institutions representing 8.5 million students. The quick adoption of NTC also caught the attention of Pearson, the world's leading learning company.

ESP will continue to develop new products that produce better data for education. "Creating NTC was one of our most exciting ventures. We will always be forward looking when it comes to putting actionable data into the hands of those that need them," stated ESP's president and CEO, Dr. Ligon. "We are eager to watch NTC's momentum grow with the resources that Pearson brings to the market."

ESP developed NTC for education agencies to have an easy-to-use method to exchange student records using any of the national transmission standards (e.g., EDI, PESC-XML, and SIF-XML). "Pearson's acknowledged expertise in the development of user-friendly, standards-based technology for education, and its widespread implementation, make it the most logical organization to make NTC widely available," commented Dr. Clements, NTC's Chief Standards Officer and ESP's Vice President.

Details of the acquisition state that NTC will become part of Edustructures, a business unit within the Assessment and Information group of Pearson. Edustructures, the leading provider of SIF® integration solutions, ESP, and NTC have worked in collaboration on a number of large-scale student data system implementations in the past.

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“Edustructures and NTC have a shared vision for the important role of record/transcript exchange in a statewide data system,” said Steve Curtis, president of Edustructures. “This acquisition will allow us to more effectively meet the growing challenges states and districts face as they seek to improve systems, better utilize existing resources, and ultimately satisfy the demands of all their constituents.”

ABOUT ESP SOLUTIONS GROUP

ESP Solutions Group provides its clients with extraordinary insight into K-12 education data systems and psychometrics. The ESP team is comprised of industry experts who pioneered the concept of data-driven decision making (D3M) and now help optimize the management of its clients' state and local education agencies. ESP personnel have advised many local school systems, all 52 state education agencies, and the U.S. Department of Education on the practice of K-12 school data management. ESP is regarded as a leading expert in understanding the data and technology implications of the No Child Left Behind Act, Education Data Exchange Network/EDFacts, and the Schools Interoperability Framework. Their expertise and experience is documented in their Optimal Reference Guides (whitepapers on a variety of education topics such as data quality, data reporting, and growth models.) ESP's Optimal Reference Guides are available on their website in the Resources section. The firm is headquartered in Austin, Texas. For more information, go to www.espsolutionsgroup.com.

ABOUT EDUSTRUCTURES

Edustructures, a Pearson company (NYSE: PSO), is the recognized leader in SIF integration solutions for the education market, providing secure interoperability between disparate software applications for improved educational business processes, data accuracy and reliability, staff efficiency and cost reduction. Through its SIFWorks® integration platform, comprehensive professional services, and business relationships with technology providers and educators, Edustructures connects the systems that power education. For more information about Edustructures, please visit www.edustructures.com.

ABOUT PEARSON

Pearson (NYSE:PSO), the global leader in education and education technology, reaches and engages today's digital natives with effective and personalized learning, as well as dedicated professional development for their teachers. This commitment is demonstrated in the company's investment in innovative print and digital education materials for preK through college, student information systems and learning management systems, teacher professional development, career certification programs, and testing and assessment products that set the standard for the industry. The company's respected brands include Scott Foresman, Prentice Hall, Addison Wesley, Benjamin Cummings, PEMSolutions, Stanford 10, SuccessNet, MyLabs, PowerSchool, SuccessMaker, and many others. Pearson's comprehensive offerings help inform targeted instruction and intervention so that success is within reach of every student at every level of education. Pearson's commitment to education for all is supported by the global philanthropic initiatives of the Pearson Foundation. Pearson's other primary businesses include the Financial Times Group and the Penguin Group. For more information, go to www.pearson.com.

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