



NEWS

From Harcourt Assessment, Inc.

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**HARCOURT ASSESSMENT, INC., ACQUIRES DUTCH TESTING COMPANY
SWETS TEST INTERNATIONAL**

SAN ANTONIO – San Antonio-based test publisher Harcourt Assessment, Inc., announced today that it will acquire Swets Test International (STI) from Dutch publishing company Royal Swets & Zeitlinger.

STI is a leading publisher in the Dutch testing market, offering products and services for professionals in the fields of human resource management, health care and education. STI also operates testing businesses in Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Belgium.

The STI companies will be integrated into the existing operations of Harcourt Assessment International, the international unit of Harcourt Assessment, Inc., and will report to the company's vice president of international operations, based in London.

The STI acquisition is Harcourt Assessment's second international purchase and continues the company's efforts to strengthen its position in international markets. In April 2002, Harcourt Assessment, then known as The Psychological Corporation, acquired Paris-based Les Editions du Centre de Psychologie Appliquée (ECPA).

Aurelio Prifitera, publisher of Harcourt Assessment, Inc., and president of Harcourt Assessment International, commented: "As one of the world's leading test publishers, we continuously look for ways to offer greater value to our customers, and the acquisition of the STI companies, with their broad array of products, helps us do that. This acquisition is an ideal opportunity to strengthen our international operations and enhance our leadership position in the clinical, educational and human resource assessment markets. We are pleased to welcome our new partners to Harcourt Assessment."

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Harcourt Assessment Acquires Swets Test International

Dec. 11, 2003

Page 2

Eric van Amerongen, CEO of Royal Swets & Zeitlinger Holding NV noted: "As a leader in the psychological test publishing markets, Harcourt Assessment International is in a good position to grow and develop the STI business further and to provide its authors and customers with a knowledgeable, sound and extended business environment. Harcourt's excellent reputation and its commitment to providing quality products and services has been an important factor in Swets' decision to enter into negotiations with Harcourt's management. This divestment is in line with our overall strategy to concentrate purely on outsourcing, distribution and information services in the fields between scientific publishers and their markets."

About Harcourt Assessment

Harcourt Assessment International has offices in the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada, as well as France, where it operates through its subsidiary, ECPA. The company is the international unit of U.S.-based Harcourt Assessment, Inc., and until recently was known as The Psychological Corporation.

With headquarters in San Antonio, Texas, Harcourt Assessment, Inc., is a leading provider of high-quality assessment instruments and testing programs. Under the PsychCorp™ brand, the company publishes a wide variety of clinical products, such as the Wechsler® family of intelligence tests, and the CELF® family of speech and language tests. Its educational products include the Stanford Achievement Test series and the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test®.

The company is affiliated with the Harcourt book publishing companies, and together they form the global education brand of Reed Elsevier Group plc (NYSE: RUK and ENL) -- a world-leading publisher and information provider operating in the science and medical, legal, education and business-to-business industry sectors. For further information, please visit

www.harcourtassessment.com and www.reedelsevier.com.

Harcourt Assessment Acquires Swets Test International

Dec. 11, 2003

Page 3

About Swets Test International

Royal Swets & Zeitlinger's STI division is made up of the following companies: Swets Test Publishers (STP) has a strong market position in the clinical, human resources and educational fields. Based in Lisse, the Netherlands, STP also has a strong Dutch- language book list in psychology. The French operating company Editions & Applications Psychologiques (EAP), based in Paris, has an extensive portfolio of tests in the clinical and human resources markets. Swets Test Services (Germany) is a recognized player in the market with high quality clinical tests and a valuable network within the academic community. U.K.-based Thames Valley Test Company is the leading European publisher of neuropsychological tests, with a strong network of worldwide neuropsychologists.

About Royal Swets & Zeitlinger

Royal Swets & Zeitlinger Holding NV is an international information group, with over 1,200 employees in 23 countries. With headquarters in Lisse, the Netherlands, Swets & Zeitlinger is a leading print and electronic service provider of scientific and professional information for the academic, corporate and governmental markets. Swets & Zeitlinger's activities are incorporated in the following divisions: Extenza, Swets Information Services, Swets Backsets Service and Swets Farrington Document Systems.

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