



A Harcourt Assessment Company

News Release

April 15, 2002

Harcourt Inc. to acquire French testing business Les Editions du Centre de Psychologie Appliquée

Harcourt Inc., the U.S.-based K-12 education and testing business subsidiary of Reed Elsevier plc, announced today that it will acquire *Les Editions du Centre de Psychologie Appliquée* (ECPA) from German-based publishing group, WEKA. ECPA is the leading publisher in the French testing market, with titles in clinical and human resources assessment. The company will be a part of The Psychological Corporation, Harcourt's clinical assessment business based in San Antonio, Texas.

ECPA will be The Psychological Corporation's first business in a non-English speaking country, adding significantly to its global reach. Currently, The Psychological Corporation has global units operating in the UK, Australia and Canada. ECPA, which is based in Paris, will operate as a business unit within The Psychological Corporation.

The global market for clinical assessment is growing significantly. ECPA has a strong brand image and excellent reputation for developing technically superior, high quality assessments. This acquisition will afford increased opportunity for local adaptation of The Psychological Corporation products in French-speaking markets, which will help the company to accelerate growth globally. Mireille Simon will continue as Director for ECPA.

Aurelio Prifitera, president of The Psychological Corporation commented: "Les Editions du Centre de Psychologie Appliquée brings our group the strength of a leadership position in France, and provides opportunities to expand the presence of our product line globally. The firm has a strong position within the French market, and through its product development expertise, we will be able to provide our quality products to other French-speaking markets."

Jack Dilworth, chief executive officer of The Psychological Corporation added: "The Psychological Corporation has an excellent reputation for providing reliable, valid and clinically superior assessments to clinicians; ECPA has a similar reputation in its markets. We believe that this commitment to quality will prove increasingly important to practicing clinicians in the global marketplace."

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Notes to Editors**Harcourt Education**

Harcourt Education is a leading US K-12 education provider. Companies within Harcourt Education include The Psychological Corporation, a leading publisher of psychological, speech and language, occupational therapy and human resources assessments in the US; Harcourt Educational Measurement (achievement, aptitude and guidance testing services for K-12, notably the Stanford Achievement Test); Harcourt School Publishers; Holt, Rinehart & Winston (major publisher for grades 6-12); Harcourt Supplemental Publishers (supplemental materials under Steck-Vaughn and Rigby imprints); and Harcourt Trade (fiction and non-fiction). For further information, please visit www.psychcorp.com. Since July 2001, Harcourt Education has been a member of the Reed Elsevier plc group.

WEKA

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WEKA Business Information emerged in 2001 from the former division “Specialist Information” of the WEKA Corporate Group, which was established in 1973. In 2001, WEKA Business Information made a turnover of €194.6 million. The group employs 1,160 people. For further information, please visit the company website www.weka-group.com.

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