



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HARCOURT ASSESSMENT PRODUCT NAMED FINALIST
FOR 2006 *PLANT ENGINEERING* PRODUCT OF THE
YEAR**

*Harcourt's online version of the Bennett Mechanical Comprehension Test is a finalist
for the prestigious award*

SAN ANTONIO, October 16, 2006 – Harcourt Assessment, Inc. today announced that the online version of the Bennett Mechanical Comprehension Test® (BMCT®) is a finalist for the prestigious 2006 *Plant Engineering* Product of the Year award. The product will be presented in the November 2006 issue of *Plant Engineering*. Winners will be chosen by a reader poll, with award announcements to be made in January.

“The online version of the BMCT® is a convenient, easy and secure way for companies to assess candidate’s mechanical comprehension,” said Harcourt Assessment Vice President of Publishing and Technology Gene Bowles. “We are excited to receive this recognition and thank *Plant Engineering* for the opportunity to compete for this award.”

The online version of BMCT® assists companies in predicting a potential employee’s success in mechanical, technical and industrial positions. The assessment is administered in just 30 minutes with 68 multiple-choice questions. The BMCT® enables companies to evaluate applicants’:

- Problem solving skills
- Ability to learn new concepts and procedures quickly
- Breadth of mechanical principles & processes knowledge

- Comprehension for producing quality work
- Ability to diagnose problems timely and efficiently

Using this solution, recruiters and hiring managers are able to obtain scores and view reports, immediately after the assessment is complete. The assessment score reports provide valid and reliable information, including occupation specific norms, needed to make sound hiring decisions. The online version of BMCT® is ideal for use across many occupations and industries, including mechanical trades, manufacturing, production, energy and utilities.

The online version of BMCT® is just one of more than 40 talent assessment products offered by Harcourt Assessment. Harcourt Assessment's line of talent assessment products assists recruiters in making hiring decisions across a broad spectrum of industries with customers including more than half of the companies on the Fortune 100 list. Talent assessment solutions are available from Harcourt Assessment to assess a wide array of abilities including critical thinking, hand-tool dexterity, language proficiency, clerical skills and many more skill sets. Products are also available to assess personality traits such as dependability, attention to detail, innovation, work style, stress tolerance, industriousness and leadership potential to help determine how well an individual aligns with your organization.

For more information on Harcourt Assessment's talent assessment products, visit <http://www.AssessTalent.com>.

About Harcourt Assessment, Inc.

Based in San Antonio, Harcourt Assessment, Inc. is a leading provider of high-quality assessment instruments and testing programs published under two brand names — Harcourt Assessment and PsychCorp™. For more than 85 years, Harcourt Assessment has been providing insight about children and adults; informing instruction, curricula, and clinical practice; collaborating with educators and clinical professionals; assisting human resources, admissions and credential professionals; and creating assessment innovations, in order to provide the most effective assessment solutions for the success of all individuals.

The company is a unit of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in PreK through grade 12, adult learners, and readers of all ages. Harcourt Education is part of Reed Elsevier Group plc. (www.reedelsevier.com), a world-leading publisher and information provider. It is owned equally by Reed Elsevier PLC (NYSE: RUK) and Reed Elsevier NV (NYSE: ENL).

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