

## **ETS Premieres World's First Internet-Based English-Proiciency Test; New TOEFL Test Reflects Real-World University English; Adds Speaking Component to Listening, Reading And Writing**

September 26, 2005

PRINCETON, N.J., Sep 26, 2005 (CCNMatthews via COMTEX News Network) -- More than two thousand students arrived at Thomson Prometric testing centers and other educational institutions across the United States Saturday to take the first Internet-based version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL(R) iBT). Developed by ETS, TOEFL iBT reflects the academic English used in higher education and is the first large-scale English-proficiency assessment to be delivered over the Internet.

TOEFL iBT is the newest version of ETS's English proficiency test designed to assess English-language skills in academic settings. The test is recognized by more than 5,200 colleges and universities worldwide, and is widely known as the leading academic English assessment.

The new test stresses integrated communications skills and communicative competence. ETS created such enhancements as a new speaking section at the request of educators and admissions officials who worked closely with ETS and Thomson Prometric to develop the new test. The changes are expected to have a great impact on how English is taught.

Since it was introduced in 1964, the TOEFL test has dramatically increased in stature among students and institutions worldwide. More than 17.5 million people have taken the TOEFL test, including nearly 750,000 last year alone.

Unlike other English-proficiency tests, TOEFL iBT does not treat the English-communication process as consisting of separate tasks. The test measures all four language skills and, most importantly, it uses an integrated-skills approach in which test takers need to:

-- read, listen, and then speak in response to a question

-- listen and then speak in response to a question

-- read, listen, and then write in response to a question

Today students can take the exam at Thomson Prometric test centers and at other Internet-based university and educational settings. The premiere of TOEFL iBT in the U.S. will be followed by administrations in Canada, France, Germany and Italy on Oct. 22. (See Note to the editor for other planned international launch dates).

"This test is a breakthrough in English-language assessment," says Kurt Landgraf, ETS President and CEO. "It is the only test that uses Internet-based technology on such a global scale to measure English proficiency. It also helps ETS expand its testing to thousands of locations worldwide, greatly improving access for the test takers we serve."

"Equally important is that for the first time, the TOEFL test integrates all four components of language skills - listening, reading, writing and speaking, to help learners build the skills and confidence needed to communicate effectively in academic environments. University admissions officials and educators asked for this, and with their help, ETS's research and development experts have delivered it."

"This new test is the successful culmination of a multi-year effort, combining a new test delivered using new technology and enhanced services through a significantly expanded set of testing centers worldwide," says Michael Brannick, President of Thomson Prometric, a part of The Thomson Corporation (NYSE:TOC; TSX:TOC). "We are committed to our collaboration with ETS to ensure effective and efficient testing operations for this increasingly important test. Thanks to our collective efforts, more testing candidates than ever before will have access to the TOEFL test worldwide."

"With the new TOEFL iBT test takers are presented with questions that truly reflect how language is used in an academic setting," notes Mari Pearlman, Senior Vice President of Higher Education at ETS. "Admission officials, in turn, gain a better idea of how well prospective students will interact at their universities."

"Unlike other English-language tests, we do not use face-to-face interviews for the speaking section of the test," Pearlman adds. "The interview method may add bias to a test depending on the rapport between the test taker and interviewer. TOEFL test takers record their spoken English. Instead of relying upon one person's impression, ETS has between three and six highly trained raters review test taker responses. It's fairer for students and more accurate for universities."

Pearlman says ETS has also expanded the writing section. In addition to the essay section in the current test, the new test includes another writing task. Test takers will read a short passage, listen to a lecture, and then type their response on the computer screen. Test takers are allowed up to four hours to complete the test, and all sections can be completed on the same day, adding a new level of convenience for test takers.

Because the TOEFL iBT measures all four English skills, and includes independent and integrated tasks, ETS officials believe it will help English instructors link teaching and learning with testing to better help their students perform in academic settings.

Other features of the new test include helpful performance feedback on score reports and score results provided online within 15 business days of testing. A free practice test is also available at TOEFL Practice Online at [www.ets.org/toeflpractice](http://www.ets.org/toeflpractice).

The new test will be administered on fixed dates in the ETS global network of Internet-based test centers and through Thomson Prometric, the world's largest computer-based testing network.

Most test centers will offer 30 to 40 TOEFL iBT administrations a year. The number may vary, based on the number of test takers and test-center

capacity. The testing fee in 2005 will be US\$140.

For the latest information about TOEFL iBT, visit [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl). Test takers can e-mail [toefl@ets.org](mailto:toefl@ets.org) or call 1-877-863-3546 (toll free in the United States, U.S. territories, and Canada) or 1-609-771-7100.

#### About ETS

ETS is a nonprofit institution with the mission to advance quality and equity in education by providing fair and valid assessments, research, and related services for all people worldwide. In serving individuals, educational institutions and government agencies around the world, ETS customizes solutions to meet the need for teacher professional development products and services, classroom and end-of-course assessments, and research-based teaching and learning tools. Founded in 1947, ETS today develops, administers and scores more than 24 million tests annually in more than 180 countries, at over 9,000 locations worldwide. Additional information is available at [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org).

#### About Thomson Prometric

The Thomson Corporation, [www.thomson.com](http://www.thomson.com), is a global leader in providing integrated information solutions to business and professional customers. With operational headquarters in Stamford, Conn., Thomson (NYSE:TOC; TSX:TOC) has approximately 38,000 employees and provides services in approximately 180 countries.

Thomson Prometric, [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com), is the recognized global leader in technology-enabled assessment services, providing paper-and-pencil, Internet and computer-based testing solutions. It offers a fully integrated testing system that includes test development, test delivery, and data management capabilities. On behalf of 600 current clients in the academic, professional, government, corporate and information technology markets, Thomson Prometric develops and/or delivers assessments through a global network of testing centers as well as directly to candidates via the Web.

#### TOEFL(R) iBT

##### WORLDWIDE INTRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Below is the anticipated schedule for worldwide introduction of the TOEFL(R) Internet-based test--the TOEFL iBT. The information below indicates the earliest possible administration date for each country or region, and is subject to change. The introduction dates for some countries have not yet been determined and this list will be updated on a regular basis as dates are finalized. Visit the Learners and Test Takers section of the TOEFL Web site at [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl) for the latest information, or consult your local educational advising center.

Registration opens two months in advance of the first administration in each country.

The Test of Spoken English(TM) (TSE(R)) will no longer be offered as a stand-alone test after June 2006 except in countries where TOEFL iBT has not yet been introduced.

#### September 2005

##### AMERICAS

United States (excluding U.S. territories)

#### October 2005

##### AMERICAS

Canada

##### EUROPE

France, Germany, Italy

#### November 2005

##### AMERICAS

Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

##### PACIFIC REGION

American Samoa

#### March 2006

##### AFRICA

Benin, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Reunion,

Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

#### AMERICAS

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

#### EUROPE AND EURASIA

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan

#### MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank

#### PACIFIC REGION

Guam

April 2006

#### ASIA

Brunei, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

#### PACIFIC REGION

Australia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands, Pohnpei

May 2006

#### ASIA

China, Japan, Republic of Korea

TOEFL iBT introduction dates have not yet been set for the countries listed below. When these countries are ready to implement TOEFL iBT, ETS will announce the dates on the TOEFL Web site and via educational advising centers.

To provide continued access for TOEFL and TSE test takers in these areas, ETS will offer the paper-based TOEFL test and the TSE until TOEFL iBT can be delivered.

#### AMERICAS

Belize, Haiti, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

#### ASIA

Bangladesh, Bhutan

#### PACIFIC REGION

Tahiti

#### MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

Afghanistan, Gaza, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen

#### AFRICA

Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire), Djibouti, Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Republic of Congo, Rwanda,

Sierra Leone, Swaziland

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Malta,  
Tajikistan

SOURCE: Thomson

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