FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Data Transport Standard’s Technical Workgroup Proposes version 2.0 of Data Transport Standard Specification
Public Comment Period Now Open

(Washington DC) ~ The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce that the Data Transport Standard (DTS) Technical Workgroup of the Standards Forum for Education has proposed the version 2.0 specification as an approved and recognized education community standard.

“We are very pleased to offer this Web Service to the education community,” states Nathan Chitty, Software Architect at Nelnet and co-chair of the DTS Technical Workgroup. “With real-time data transfer capabilities, use of a standard request/response model, and foundation as platform-neutral, DTS version 2.0 is designed for the future so that any type of business can use it as a transport mechanism.” Mr. Chitty continues.

“DTS version 2.0 has enhanced its security to incorporate portions of the OASIS Web Services Security Specification (WS-Security),” adds Mark Malinoski, Web Architecture and Technology Manager of Web Products at AES and co-chair of the DTS Technical Workgroup. “In addition, the “Header” elements have been modified to conform to other Web Services standard specifications. These changes will greatly increase both the security and the ease of implementation of DTS.”

"Datatel is committed to PESC Standards," Pete Nalli, Director of Software Architecture for Datatel and Chair of the PESC Board of Directors, reaffirms. “We feel having the Data Transport Standard is essential to the adoption and implementation of data exchange standards and are excited to see the completion of this standard."

With the development work completed and submitted on April 13, 2007, the DTS Specification is now immediately ready for public comment period. The complete submission can be accessed at http://www.pesc.org/workgroups/datatransport/. The public comment period begins Monday May 21, 2007 and will be thirty (30) calendar days. Public comment period expires at the close of business on Wednesday June 20, 2007. All comments, from the PESC Membership and the public, shall be made in the form of an e-mail to the PESC Executive Director at: Sessa@PESC.org. The comment e-mail should clearly identify the:
1) Responder name and appropriate contact information;
2) Source of the comments, i.e., whether the comments are individual or represent those of a group the responder represents;
3) Nature of the responder’s interest in the standard (what is the issue and why is it important?);
4) Element(s) of the proposed standard with which issue is taken;
5) Changes suggested to resolve the issue(s).

The 2.0 specification and Change Document outlining the improvements in version 2.0 from version 1.1 are posted on the PESC website at http://www.pesc.org/workgroups/datatransport/.

The Process

Within 30 calendar days after the close of the public comment period, the Change Control Board (CCB) of the Standards Forum for Education will address and consider all public comments and make, in consultation with the DTS Technical Workgroup any necessary revisions. All public comments will be posted to the PESC website during the review process. The CCB’s consideration/revision period expires on Friday July 20, 2007 unless extenuating circumstances exist which require further deliberation.

Once any changes resulting from the public comment period have been incorporated, the CCB will recommend to the Standards Forum’s Steering Committee and the PESC Board of Directors that the Specification be submitted to a vote by the PESC Members. The Board will have seven (7) calendar days to approve the submission or refer it back to the CCB with specific instructions for further work. The PESC office will issue electronic ballots to the official contacts of voting Member organizations.

Completed ballots, including the reason(s) for any rejection, shall be returned to the PESC office via e-mail attachment, fax, overnight delivery, or U.S. Postal Service within ten (10) business days. PESC staff is responsible for the tabulation of the ballots; acceptance of the Specification as a standard requires an affirmative vote of at least 80% of all votes cast. Once the Members accept the Specification, the Board of Directors will within seven (7) calendar days ratify the vote, publish/post all necessary documents and communications, and implement version control on all documents. Approved standards are freely accessible on the PESC website (www.PESC.org).

For more information, please visit www.PESC.org.

About PESC
Established in 1997 and located in Washington, D.C., the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is a non-profit, community-based, umbrella association of colleges and universities; professional and commercial organizations; data, software and service providers; and state and federal government agencies. PESC’s mission is to lead the establishment and adoption of data exchange standards in education. The goals of the mission are to enable the improvement of institutional performance and foster collaboration across educational communities in order to lower costs, improve service, and attain system interoperability.

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