



Media release

Minister for Information and Communication Technology

Tuesday 28 June 2005 – *Tokyo, Japan*

ICT MISSION TO JAPAN DELIVERS FOR eLEARNING INDUSTRY

The Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Marsha Thomson, today announced the first tangible result from Australia's largest ever trade mission to Japan.

Speaking from Tokyo, Ms Thomson said Victorian eLearning company Etech Group had entered into a partnership with Japanese broadband provider Data Pacific and Waseda University to undertake a joint eLearning research and development project within Tokyo's primary and secondary schools, over the next 18 months.

"This is an ambitious international project that will deploy Etech's cutting edge eLearning platform, *Studywiz*, into one of the world's largest markets," Ms Thomson said.

"This project will not only raise the profile of Etech Group but also the profile of Victoria's highly talented eLearning industry."

Ms Thomson said Victoria's ICT delegation, which consisted of 34 organisations and 50 individuals, had been extremely well received in Japan and it was expected that the success of the Etech Group would be the first in a number of positive partnership as a direct result of the trade mission.

"The companies on this trade mission have been provided with access to senior executives from Japan's leading companies," Ms Thomson said.

"This has allowed them to showcase the vast talent and capability that Victoria has in the fields of Elearning, computer game development, business software applications and intelligent transport systems/RFID.

"This trade mission has delivered real opportunities for the companies involved and I am confident that they will take full advantage.

"All of the participating organisations have and will continue to be great ambassadors for Victoria and our ICT industry."