

PRIVATE EDUCATION

The merging of the educational interests of NPC and Educor will be completed by mid-2000, giving Naspers a 40% interest in the largest group in the education sector on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Key statistics

	2000 R'm	1999 R'm
Revenue	217	92
Ebitda	(5)	14

The group will be well positioned to exploit growth opportunities presented by a worldwide information explosion and its ability to deliver content electronically to learners.

In the content area Educor comprises numerous well-known brands, including the Damelin Education Group, Midrand University, Milpark Business School, the Graduate Institute of Management and Technology, Intec, the Allenby Campus Group, Damelin-Eden Colleges and the International Colleges group.

NPC's contribution to the newly formed business is its two well-established distance-learning colleges, Lyceum and Success, and Mentor Business College which provides contact teaching, along with its new internet-related businesses, Intavision and Evalunet.

Electronic delivery opens up the possibility of providing millions of learners with affordable access to the world of knowledge. Establishing the new technology will initially require considerable investment, but expectations are that this method of teaching and learning will become one of the main applications of the internet.

M-Web and MIH will be able to provide a support network and cutting-edge technological expertise, unlocking important synergies in the process.

The Skills Development Act presents opportunities to new market entrants. NPC's existing operations have been restructured to ensure that the quality of both service and programme content is maintained, providing a

competitive advantage. Academic support is provided by cooperation agreements with the University of Stellenbosch, the University of Pretoria and RAU, along with informal ties with overseas universities.

A number of new programmes have been launched, including entrepreneurship, workplace assessment, fire-fighting technology, and another BEd which has been added to the existing teaching programmes.

The Department of Education's drawn-out process of accreditation of programmes and registration of private higher education institutions resulted in uncertainty in the industry. NPC supports the principles of accreditation and registration as it establishes standards and protects students. But over-regulation, which has a stifling effect on the development of private initiatives, must be guarded against. In its endeavour to improve training the state has a potentially valuable partner in the private sector. The enthusiasm with which Minister Kader Asmal has tackled a difficult task has been encouraging.

