For release Tuesday July 19 2011

$200,000 in funding announced by Australian Moodle Partner, NetSpot, to sustain early stage eLearning innovations from the Higher Education sector.

Sydney, NSW, July 19 2011 – NetSpot announced a $200,000 eLearning Innovation Fund today at the annual Moodle Conference in Sydney in front of over 500 delegates. The funding program will be supported with involvement of key professional bodies including ascilite, HERDSA, ODLAA, ACODE and CADAD. The funding is intended to provide longevity and a viable distribution and support model for emerging eLearning innovations which have demonstrated relevance and acceptance within the Higher Education sector.

In recent years, various funding sources have stimulated the creation of many innovative services or products in the eLearning space. In the university setting, most funding for these eLearning initiatives is project based and in the vast majority of cases, innovations are not sustained when the funding is removed. There are clear benefits to framing these activities within existing systems such as Moodle which can provide a degree of commercial scaffolding such as product distribution, professional services and ongoing development frameworks.

The funding that will be made available by NetSpot, one of the largest official Moodle Partners in the world, will be used to incorporate selected technologies into Moodle through integrations, or within the Moodle core code, with the aim of sustainability via the Moodle ecosystem. Moodle has been adopted enterprise-wide by more than one third of all Australian Universities with NetSpot providing support for institutions such as the Australian National University, University of Canberra, Flinders University, Macquarie University, The University of New England, The University of New South Wales, The University of Western Australia, La Trobe University and Monash University as well as the TAFE system throughout Victoria and all South Australian public schools.

NetSpot Managing Director, Allan Christie believes the time is right for this kind of collaboration between industry and education:

“eLearning has been a passion of mine for 25 years and I am delighted that NetSpot has grown to the point that it is able to support innovations in the Higher Education setting that will provide sustainable benefits for all.”

The NetSpot Innovation Fund will provide an annual funding round with successful applicants selected by a panel made up of members of key professional bodies and NetSpot.

About NetSpot

NetSpot Pty Ltd (ABN 50 083 417 403) is a Premium eLearning Technology Services Partner to education organisations within the Asia Pacific region. NetSpot provides a range of professional services including AARNet-based managed hosting for over 500,000 users, technical support, training, content migration, customisation and help-desk. NetSpot is an official Moodle partner in Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong. For further information please visit our website: www.netspot.com.au

For further information contact Louisa Wright on 0418 738 729 or email louisa.wright@netspot.com.au