Navitas and Curtin University to refocus partnership on WA and Singapore colleges – Curtin University Sydney campus to close

Global education services provider Navitas Limited (ASX: NVT) and Curtin University (Curtin) have announced a re-focusing of their education partnership on their WA and Singapore operations. As a result the Curtin University Sydney (CUS) operation will be gradually closed down with classes ceasing by February 2017.

CUS is a campus managed and operated by Navitas on behalf of Curtin University.

This mutual decision allows Navitas to increase its focus on developing a larger campus in Sydney’s CBD managed in association with La Trobe University rather than operating two smaller campuses, involving Curtin and La Trobe. Significant synergies will be available from having one managed campus rather than two.

The decision is also in-line with Curtin University’s vision for its future focus and global positioning that was informed by the outcomes of two independent expert reviews of the University’s international strategy, conducted earlier this year.

It is intended that CUS will be wound down through 2016 with the final trimester being no later than the third trimester of 2016. As such the majority of CUS students will not be affected by the gradual closure of CUS as they will have completed their programs by the final trimester or will have been placed in alternate programs.

Students who have not completed by this time will be supported to access appropriate alternative arrangements to complete their programs, including similar programs at La Trobe Sydney and the University of Technology Sydney.

Recruitment of new students to CUS will cease in 2016. The main priority of both CUS and Curtin will be the well-being and support of the CUS students during this period.

“Curtin has enjoyed a strong relationship with Navitas in the operation of the Sydney campus over the last 10 years and we look forward to continuing to develop our partnership in other areas of our operations,” Professor Deborah Terry, Vice-Chancellor of Curtin University said.

“We have managed CUS for Curtin University since 2005 with great outcomes for students and the University. Our priority now is to keep supporting CUS students to achieve their academic goals throughout this transition as well as further progressing our already productive relationship with Curtin University in regards to our two other partnerships – Curtin College, in Perth, and the Curtin Singapore managed campus,” Mr Rod Jones, Group CEO of Navitas said.

“We will also work with our other Sydney based institutions, in particular La Trobe Sydney and Western Sydney University, to meet student demand for high quality educational options in Sydney and anticipate efficiencies from this consolidation.”
The agreement for Curtin Singapore is due for renewal in March 2017 and Curtin College in December 2016. Negotiations for renewal of the agreements for both colleges have already commenced and are progressing positively.

Given the alignment of operations in Sydney it is not anticipated that the gradual closure of CUS will have a material earnings impact.

Navitas will host a conference call for investors at 9.30am AEST Thursday 17 September 2015.

For further information contact:
James Fuller, Group Manager Corporate Affairs
Navitas Limited
Tel: +61 (8) 9314 9617
Mob: +61 488 093 763

About Navitas
Navitas is a leading global education provider that offers an extensive range of educational services through three major Divisions to students and professionals including university programs, creative media education, professional education, English language training and settlement services. Navitas is a S&P/ASX100 company. Further details about Navitas are available at navitas.com