



## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Regarding ADL Relationships

March 23, 2009

Since its establishment in 1997, the Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Initiative has worked with military and government agencies, industry, academia, and professional organizations world-wide to accomplish its mission and realize its vision that learning experiences must be accessible to all online and on demand. ADL's success is directly traceable to its early decision to work with others in a collaborative environment to research, evaluate, and validate specifications and standards that would advance the goals of the education and training communities. The Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM<sup>®</sup>), registered to the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), was the first, and most widely adopted, product of this effort. Many organizations and individuals participating in SCORM's development continue to work closely with the ADL Initiative, and many are interested in continuing their efforts to work with ADL to advance SCORM, to the benefit of all involved. To ensure that SCORM will continue to evolve to meet the needs of the entire e-learning community, ADL consulted with the DoD General Counsel to clarify certain intellectual property (IP) issues and afford proper attribution.

Recent ADL consultation with the DoD's Office of General Counsel covered several issues; among these were transferring IP and SCORM stewardship outside the DoD. Defense Department attorneys informed ADL that assigning certain rights to use SCORM may occur on a non-exclusive basis. This guidance has a direct impact on the International Federation for Learning, Education, and Training Systems Interoperability (LETSI). LETSI, represented as an international non-profit organization, was founded in 2008 to support open software standards adoption in learning systems and, specifically, the international SCORM community. LETSI had been seeking an exclusive license to be the steward for SCORM development as SCORM 2.0. The DoD Office of General Counsel has advised the ADL Initiative that this is not possible. ADL cannot provide preferential treatment to any private organization. Proceeding under this guidance, ADL will continue to develop and maintain SCORM, and will continue to work with all ADL stakeholders to ensure that all constituencies continue to be equally represented in the ongoing work of the Initiative.

The ADL leadership looks forward to working with as large a community as possible of current partners in an open and collaborative environment to advance and leverage emerging learning technologies to benefit the education and training communities.

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