

## Nokia and NIIT ink pact to launch 5G certification program

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Skill development firm NIIT has tied up with telecom equipment vendor Nokia, to offer Nokia's 5G certification program aimed to skill professionals on the next generation of services.

The certification program comes at a time when telcos like Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio have said they are 5G ready and the government is expected to auction 5G spectrum later this year.

"Building out an extensive 5G network is a mammoth undertaking, but finding the workforce to make it possible is a challenge. Even finding people to update and maintain existing infrastructure is a substantial issue for many companies," said S.P. Kochhar, Director General, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) - an industry body which represents private telcos.

The Nokia Bell Labs 5G Certification Program will offer professionals across the information and communications technology (ICT) industry two levels of certification – Associate and Professional – that deliver essential knowledge covering everything from the basics of 5G networks to professional level planning and design.

"The companies and individuals who are best informed and equipped to recognize the opportunities of 5G stand to benefit most from this revolutionary technology and the critical networks they support. Nokia is excited to partner with NIIT and COAI ...to bring 5G certification to individuals and organizations across India," said Sergio Fasce, Vice President of Nokia EDU on Wednesday.

The certification program now has Associate Level Certification Foundation course, and will be followed by Professional level certifications and courses.

Nokia is a global 5G vendor and this course is built on the principles of Nokia Bell Labs' pioneering Future X architecture for the 5G era. It is designed for business and technology professionals at communications service providers and enterprises.

"We are excited to partner with Nokia and COAI ... to deliver this innovative 5G certification program – a first-of-its-kind opportunity for professionals and organizations across India," said Sapnesh Lalla, Chief Executive Officer, NIIT.