

# India to need 7.5m more IT engineers in next 10 years

**B KRISHNA MOHAN**

*Hyderabad*

TEN YEARS from now, the software sector in India will need about 7.5 million more engineers to retain its competitive edge. At present, the sector has 2.5 million engineers. The country produces around 7,00,000 engineers annually but a majority of them do not have the right mix of skills to be employed directly. This apart, a significant number of the engineers do not join the software sector, which adds to the manpower shortage, according to BVR Mohan Reddy, chairman, Infotech Enterprises, and also executive council member of Nasscom.

"The industry will survive if there is an adequate supply of manpower. Otherwise, this will result in higher salaries and higher attri-

tion. This will erode our competitive edge," he said, adding that about 10 million engineers will be needed by the software industry over the next decade.

Software exports from the country are valued at \$59 billion at present compared with \$6 billion in 2001. "Software exports will grow to \$175 billion in ten years. The domestic market is now \$28 billion and this is expected to grow to \$50 billion. The overall industry revenues are estimated at Rs 10 lakh crore," he said.

Indian exports from engineering services segment are valued at \$9 billion, and within that, the aerospace segment is worth \$500 million. Infotech alone accounts for 20 per cent of the exports with over \$100 million earned from the aerospace segment.

Out of Infotech's 8,750

employees, more than 2,500 are in aerospace segment including 650 in avionics. The aerospace segment will grow at 20 per cent CAGR and the competition will intensify due to entry of big players from China, Russia and Brazil, Reddy said.

Also, the defence segment will be a key diver of this segment, he said.

To meet the manpower requirement in avionics, Infotech has signed an agreement with Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Kakinada, to create a curriculum for MTech in avionics. Students will be given internships at Infotech and the company will make job offers to eligible students. "We will scale up this arrangement with other universities across the country," Reddy said.

krishnamohan  
@mydigitalfc.com