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NIIT inks deal with IBM to launch new courses

By Kunal Doley

THE worldwide market for computer software and systems testing services, according to some industry reports, is projected to reach $56 billion (Rs 260,400 crore) by 2013. India is emerging as a leader in the software testing market with more and more companies outsourcing their software testing services to India.

To tap this growing market, talent development and IT training company NIIT and tech major IBM have entered into a global alliance to offer training programmes in IBM technologies, starting with software testing and quality assurance space.

Through this partnership, NIIT will offer training programmes on IBM's 'Career Education in IBM Software (CEIS) framework which has been customised for NIIT. Initially, training will be offered on curriculum from the 'Rational' brand of IBM that deals with software testing and quality assurance. In the successive phases these courses will be extended to other platforms of IBM like Database Administration, E-Business System Administration, Enterprise Collaboration and Enterprise IT Management.

NIIT will offer these training programmes across key markets in India, starting will ten centres and going up to 100 within a year, said NIIT CEO Vijay K. Thadani. "In the coming months, these courses will also be extended to other countries like China, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia. With our experience of 28 years in IT training and combined with IBM"s proven technologies, we will try create a huge pool of talent for the industry globally," he added.

According to Pradeep Nair, director-Software Group, IBM India/South Asia, the partnership will enable students and professionals in India to acquire skills around IBM's 'Rational' suite in the application development and testing space. "We've been on a journey to build a smarter talent pool for a marketplace which is very relevant to India and it was quite obvious to tie up

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NIIT's CEO Vijay K. Thadani (second from left) shakes hands with Pradip Nair of IBM (second from right). G. Raghavan (extreme right), President, Global Individual Learning Business, NIIT, is also in the picture.

with natural partners like NIIT to create this space."

"This is one of the first steps both companies are looking at enhancing portfolios. We would like to enter the market as the government is also developing infrastructure and investing on other major projects," Nair added.

The courses will be offered as modular skill-building programmes as well

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as specialised job-oriented diploma programmes.

While the certificate programme will run through five months (or eight weeks in the fast mode) and will cost Rs 25,000, the diploma course will be of 10 months (or 99 days in the accelerated mode) and will cost Rs 35,000.

"All these highly specialised training programmes will aim at engineering and science students in the first phase and enhance their employable skills. We are looking to train 25,000 people in the next three years, as part of the training programme in India," said G. Raghavan, President-Global Individual Learning Business, NIIT.

"There is plenty of work going to happen in the country in the next few years. Every new project, be it infrastructure or IT, there's going to be a huge demand for people. Everybody will benefit – students, employers and the whole country. We've always strived to bring the latest technologies to the country. The green shoots which we've been seeing in the past few months is showing good indication," said Thadani.

For the future of the country, the new courses are clearly a good indicator of progress and prosperity.

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