

**Media Fact Sheet
November 2017****TechSkills Accelerator (TeSA)****Introduction**

- 1 The TechSkills Accelerator (TeSA) is a tripartite initiative between the government, industry and the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), to build and develop a skilled Information and Communications Technology (ICT) workforce for the Singapore economy, and to enhance employability outcomes for individuals.
- 2 The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), which drives TeSA for ICT professional development, takes an integrated approach to ICT skills acquisition and practitioner training - in core ICT skills and in sector-specific ICT skills - and enhance employability outcomes through place and train programmes, and career advisory services. As of November 2017, TeSA has enabled more than 16,000 ICT professionals to up-skill and re-skill themselves.

Background

- 3 This is a flagship initiative launched by Minister Heng Swee Keat during Budget 2016, and implemented through the Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI) as announced by Minister Yaacob Ibrahim at the Committee of Supply debate 2016.
- 4 In 2016's Budget speech², Minister for Finance, Mr Heng Swee Keat, announced the formation of the TechSkills Accelerator (TeSA) and shared that TeSA would pioneer a new way of enabling Singaporeans to acquire expertise and skills and meet employers' requirements for ICT professionals.
- 5 Subsequently, Minister for Communications and Information, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, announced during the Committee of Supply debate³ that MCI and IDA (now IMDA) would drive a \$120 million Manpower Development Plan that included TeSA for ICT professional development. TeSA would be an integrated approach to ICT skills acquisition and practitioner training, in core ICT skills and in sector-specific ICT skills; and enhance employability outcomes through place and train programmes, and career advisory services.

State of ICT Manpower Across the Economy

- 6 As of 2016, there are approximately 180,000 ICT professionals employed across the economy, with about 18,000 vacancies at the same time. About half of the ICT professionals employed work in the ICT sector, while the remaining half is employed by other sectors across the economy. The ICT sector contributes to about 8% of our GDP today. Enterprises across the economy have projected hiring expectations of about 42,000 ICT professionals in the next three years (2017 to 2019).

² Full Budget speech can be found at: http://www.singaporebudget.gov.sg/budget_2016/BudgetSpeech.aspx

³ Full speech can be found at: <https://www.mci.gov.sg/cos2016>

Three key roles of TeSA

- 7 Masterplanner – bring key ICT hirers and the ICT industry together; partner with government agencies and the NTUC to collectively develop strategic plans to build capabilities of ICT professionals, address skills gaps in a fast changing digital world, and help individuals obtain emplacement in ICT jobs, with the support of training organisations and certification providers, industry associations and career services providers;
- 8 Coordinator – oversee the development of an effective ecosystem of training, certification and career services that is relevant to needs of the economy; and,
- 9 Enabler – oversee the development of a national skills framework for ICT, skills development and job placement programmes with companies and organisational partners, and integrated career services.

Three key thrusts of work by TeSA

- 10 Thrust 1 – Skills Framework for ICT
Started in 2016, this skills framework for ICT can be used by hirers to develop career maps and articulate job requirements, used by individuals to guide their skills identification and development to stay relevant, and used by training providers to devise ICT courses. Some critical skill areas include network and infrastructure, software development and engineering, data and analytics, cyber-security. As of Oct 2017, about 80 ICT skillsets and more than 100 job roles have been identified. The Skills Framework for ICT is officially launched by Minister of Communications and Information Dr Yaacob Ibrahim on 10 November 2017.
- 11 Thrust 2 – Skills Acquisition and Validation
A broad-based approach to skills development – modular and certifiable skills courses – will be taken to enable individuals to upskill or deepen their knowledge in various skills of choice to fill gaps. A targeted approach will also be taken with companies, coding schools, Continuing Education and Training (CET) and other organisational partners to provide eligible individuals with various pathways to join the ICT profession, upskill and reskill themselves. These programmes include Company-Led Training Programme, Tech Immersion and Placement Programme, CITREP+, Earn and Learn, and Professional Conversion Programme.
- 12 Thrust 3 – Integrated Career Services
This is a coordinated career support ecosystem launched in October 2016 for job matching, group mentoring, and leadership programmes by tripartite partners. It is represented by NTUC, e2i, Singapore Computer Society (SCS), IMDA and Workforce Singapore. (WSG) It provides dedicated and focused career advisory, facilitation and support services for individuals who are looking to join or develop their careers in ICT. There are various initiatives to enhance the chances of employability for individuals, namely, (1) physical and virtual career fairs, (2) physical career centres with career coaches (3) experienced ICT professionals through SCS to provide mentorship advice.

Company-Led Training (CLT) Programme

1 The CLT programme is an initiative to catalyse private-sector companies to co-invest in developing professionals for tech jobs which are in demand by the industry. The programme aims to fast-track fresh professionals and upskill or reskill experienced professionals to acquire skills for technical job roles in demand, especially in software development, data analytics, cybersecurity, network and infrastructure, and in Smart Nation projects.

Programme Coverage

2 Through the CLT programme, companies who are “Training Partners” will provide structured training that may last up to 12 months for fresh professionals and up to six months for mid-level professionals (please refer to “Eligibility Criteria” on definitions of fresh and mid-level professionals). The structured training could include a combination of On-the-Job Training (OJT), local and/or overseas attachment offered by industry partners, as well as in-depth training through internal and/or external courses. At the end of the training, trainees will be skilled up with competencies for tech job roles in demand which are aligned to the National Infocomm Competency Framework (NICF).

Eligibility Criteria

- 3 Trainees eligible for the CLT programme must be:
- Singapore Citizens holding Diploma, Degree or other relevant qualifications;
 - Fresh Professionals within the first three years of graduation in ICT or Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines or related disciplines;
 - Mid-level Professionals with more than three years of working experience after graduation in ICT or STEM disciplines or related disciplines.

Profile of Training Partners

4 Companies selected to be Training Partners under the programme may be ICT or user companies that require ICT professionals. The Training Partner:

- Must be a Singapore-registered company / organisation;
- Should possess the necessary capabilities and capacity to deliver the training programmes;
- Must be prepared to commit resources (including practical projects and mentors) to develop trainees; and
- Should possess good past track record of Human Resource Development.

Programme Support

5 Trainees and Training Partners under the programme will receive funding support for qualified items as follows:

- Monthly stipends for trainees for fresh and mid-level professionals;

- Training fees for local / overseas in-depth training and / or local / overseas attachment and / or courseware development fees
- Cost of Living Allowances (COLA) and return air fare for trainees selected to participate in overseas attachment.

More information is available at www.imtalent.sg/ct.