

Press Release

## NIIT unveils StackRoute<sup>TM</sup> – a pioneering initiative to create ‘Super Programmers’ for the Start-up industry

*Aims to create versatile technology specialists for the new age start-up industry and the changing manpower needs of the IT sector*

- **First batch starts on October 1, 2015 in Bangalore**

**Bangalore, August 21, 2015:** NIIT Limited, a global leader in skills and talent development, today unveiled a first-of-its-kind programme to address the versatile talent requirements of the fast growing start-up sector - **StackRoute<sup>TM</sup>, an NIIT initiative to produce the world’s best full stack programmers.** StackRoute<sup>TM</sup> aims to create multi-skilled, and multi-disciplinary programmers who can become key members of high-performance teams in top notch product engineering companies, start-ups, and IT firms. These ‘Super Programmers’ will also be well equipped to create their own technology start-ups.

Over the recent past, the start-up space in India has witnessed phenomenal growth and has drawn support from the government and industry for their efforts towards ushering innovation and job creation. Addressing the nation on the 69<sup>th</sup> Independence day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a new campaign "**Start-up India, Stand up India**" which would promote bank financing for start-ups and offer incentives to boost entrepreneurship and job creation. This was followed by announcement of Rs. 2000 Cr fund for start-ups. Earlier this year apex body for the IT industry NASSCOM announced an ambitious initiative called 10,000 Start-ups, to scale up the start-up ecosystem in India.

This revolution in the start-up space has led to massive talent crunch. According to a Manpower report 58 per cent of Indian employers are finding it difficult to fill positions and there is a significant talent shortage of talent in the IT and accounting space. The demand for versatile roles in IT is expected go up further, says Manpower. Also close to 67 per cent Indian start-ups reported difficulty in filling job vacancies versus a global average of 34 per cent.

As an organization, NIIT has played a pioneering role in making the right skill-sets available for the industry, over the last 34 years. To this effect, in the past couple of years specific niche offerings focused on Social, Mobile, Cloud and Analytics domains have been rolled out.

The kind of software engineers needed by the start-up sector, are significantly different from what large IT services firms needed in the past for their huge software factories. Engineers need to be versatile and have full stack programming skills and NIIT has taken a step forward to provide the same. The launch of StackRoute<sup>TM</sup> is a key ingredient of the business transformation program at NIIT that is set to enter the ‘next frontier’ of growth by offering quality Career Skills Training to offer job-ready talent to the Indian industry across multiple industry sectors.

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StackRoute™ is a truly high end, specialised programme offering, that will take a very select group of students and turn them into high performance full stack programmers that the industry needs urgently. The product has been developed in intense consultation with the industry, start-ups, product engineering companies and incubators, and is strongly endorsed by all the key industry stakeholders.

The pilot program is being launched in Bangalore in Koramangala, which has already become India's most concentrated start-up hub. The initial pilot focuses on the JavaScript and NoSQL stack, and will be followed by a series of further specialised full stack programs focused on data sciences & analytics; IT security; etc. These full-stack programs over the near future, will be made available to key product engineering and start-up hubs in India, hence becoming a significant part of NIIT's IT product portfolio.

Speaking on this significant launch, **Mr. Rahul Patwardhan, CEO, NIIT Ltd.** said, *“With innovation as our central DNA, we have been designing new-age career programmes to meet the changing manpower needs of the industry over the last 34 years. The economy has changed and so has the requirements of the industry and the aspirations of the youth. Industry today, especially the booming start-up sector, is looking at versatile professionals who can wear many hats. Technology has become a great enabler hence the need of the hour are young professionals who can work on multiple technology platforms.”*

*“At the same time, today's youth are looking for challenging roles that will enable them to work closely with the decision makers. There is also a growing hunger for setting up enterprises and lot of innovation is happening in the technology space. StackRoute™ - first of its kind initiative to create full stack programmers has been designed to match these aspirations,”* added Mr. Patwardhan.

StackRoute™, an NIIT initiative has been designed with the sole intent of teaching people to be top-class programmers. On offer are intensive boot camp styled courses with a model of apprenticeship where practitioners lead novices towards expertise. Graduates and engineering graduates who aspire to become Full-Stack Programmers can join this programme. Admission will be very selective.

**The first batch starts on October 1, 2015 in Bangalore. Interested students can visit [www.stackroute.in](http://www.stackroute.in) for further details.**

StackRoute™ is based on an extremely experiential learning model. Over a 12-week intensive boot camp, the students are immersed in a work environment that is exactly like that of a product company. They are mentored by a team of senior architects and tech leads drawn from the industry. By the end of the program, students produce real products over this time frame, which are then released as Open Source contributions or as part of App Stores and become primary demonstrators of our their competencies. Innovative pedagogical methodologies and the use of intensive learning analytics are other unique features of this first-of-its-kind intensive programs in India.

StackRoute™, enables people to become top-quality programmers by providing intensive boot camps based on 5 key principles:

1. **Learning is an Immersive Experience:** the environment in StackRoute™ is that of a product engineering company with rigorous engineering discipline and Agile development. Students are steeped in this environment in intensive boot camps. When they graduate, engineering discipline is second nature for them.

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2. **Less Theory, More Practice:** The pedagogic model reserves over 70% of time within any course to designing, writing, reviewing code. Class-room style instruction occupies less than 20% of the course.
3. **Learn from Industry Experts:** StackRoute™ courses are designed by industry experts. It has a unique model of practitioners working with small groups of students.
4. **Build and Release a Real Product:** Every graduate of StackRoute™ builds at least one real product, some of these are Open Source contributions, others are sponsored by the industry. The primary demonstrator of competency is showcasing the product.
5. **Completeness and Practical Engineering:** At StackRoute™ focus is on quality engineering, DevOps and testing – without these capabilities, students cannot be top quality programmers. The curriculum lays equal emphasis on developing critical thinking skills, making people experience real-world reviews and developing their problem solving skills.

The courses are designed and lead by industry gurus who have built and taken live ultra-large scale systems. The focus would be on product engineering where students can build and release products in an environment that has the best engineering practices. Each program will be run by a CTO and a set of product leads who will work with student teams to provide the product vision and strategy, architecture and design inputs, the tips and tricks that result in efficiency.

Please visit [www.stackroute.in](http://www.stackroute.in) for more information and follow us on:

[https://twitter.com/Stack\\_Route](https://twitter.com/Stack_Route)

### **About NIIT**

Established in 1981, NIIT Limited, a global leader in Skills and Talent Development, offers multi-disciplinary learning management and training delivery solutions to corporations, institutions, and individuals in over 40 countries. NIIT has three main lines of business across the globe- Corporate Learning Group, Skills and Careers Group, and School Learning Group.

**NIIT's Corporate Learning Group (CLG)** offers Managed Training Services (MTS) to market-leading companies in North America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania. The comprehensive suite of Managed Training Services includes custom Curriculum Design and Content Development, Learning Administration, Learning Delivery, Strategic Sourcing, Learning Technology, and Advisory Services. With a team of some of the world's finest learning professionals, NIIT is dedicated to helping customers increase the business value of learning and development (L&D). Built on the sound principles of 'Running Training like a Business', NIIT's Managed Training Services and best-in-class training processes enable customers to align business goals with L&D, reduce costs, realise measurable value, benefit from rock-solid operations, and increase business impact.

**NIIT's Skills and Careers Group (SNC)** delivers a diverse range of learning and talent development programs to millions of individual and corporate learners in areas including Banking, Finance & Insurance, Soft Skills, Business Process Excellence, Retail Sales Enablement, Management Education, Multi-Sectoral Vocational Skills, Digital Media Marketing, and new-age IT. These programs are delivered through a hybrid combination of the 'Cloud Campus' online platform, satellite-based

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'Synchronous Learning Technology' and a physical network of hundreds of learning centers in India, China, and select markets in Asia & Africa. The flagship multi-disciplinary course offerings include the industry-endorsed RevGNIIT program and a set of Post Graduate Programs for students from different streams, apart from a wide range of specialist short duration programs.

To further strengthen its SNC portfolio in India, NIIT has tied up with industry majors like ICICI Bank for NIIT Institute of Finance Banking Insurance & Training Limited, IFBI; leading business schools in India for NIIT Imperia; Genpact for NIIT Uniqua; and a joint venture with NSDC for NIIT Yuva Jyoti Limited. Besides this, for the China market, NIIT has tied up with governments and software parks in Guian, Chongqing, Wuxi, Suzhou, Changzhou, Zhangjiagang, Haikou and Dafeng, for state-of-the-art public-private partnership centres.

**NIIT's School Learning Group (SLG)** has been providing technology based learning to over 15,000 government and private schools in India, Bhutan, South Africa and the Middle East. The futuristic NIIT nGuru range of learning solutions for schools comprises Interactive Classrooms with digital content, technology-driven Math Lab, IT Wizard programs and Quick School - an Education Resource Planning software.

As the Most Trusted Brand in India for 3rd year in a row (Brand Trust Report, 2015), NIIT's learning and talent development solutions, continue to receive widespread recognition globally. NIIT has been named among the Top 20 Training Outsourcing Companies for the past seven consecutive years by Training Industry, Inc. USA. Further, leading Indian ICT journal Dataquest has conferred upon NIIT the 'Top Training Company' award successively for the past 20 years, since the inception of this category. NIIT Yuva Jyoti Ltd was recognized as the Best Vocational Education and Skill Development initiative at the World Education Summit, 2014.

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