

Singtel to hire, train 500 professionals, retrain 2,300 employees as it gears up for 5G roll-out

Singtel will hire and train 500 professionals in Singapore over the next two years as part of a collaboration with the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), National University of Singapore (NUS) and Singapore Polytechnic (SP).

Of these, 150 will fill new 5G roles in areas such as network engineering, digital services and 5G product and platform development.

The rest will be trained in other emerging technologies

such as the Internet of Things, cloud engineering and data analytics, Singtel said yesterday.

The telco will also retrain some 2,300 existing employees as it gears up for the roll-out of Singapore's nationwide 5G networks next year.

Last September, IMDA announced it would be working with the telcos to create 1,000 positions in 5G expertise by the end of last year.

Some of these positions will be filled by Singtel's prospec-

tive 500 employees, who will comprise both fresh graduates and mid-career professionals.

Communications and Information Minister S. Iswaran visited Singtel's training headquarters in George Street yesterday, where he was briefed on the company's training efforts.

"Singtel's plans to recruit 500 over the next two years are an important part of developing the overall capability of our ICT (info-communications and technology) sector, but equally

important is transforming the skill-sets of those who are already in Singtel," said Mr Iswaran.

"Basically, what we need to do is work with the entire spectrum of Singaporean talent."

Singtel's collaboration with NUS and SP comes under the 5G and Telecoms Programme Manager initiative, which helps industry partners identify and develop 5G-related training courses.

Training for supporting roles

such as software developers will also be offered by IMDA's Tech-Skills Accelerator company-led training programmes.

Singtel and a joint venture between StarHub and M1 won the rights to build the Republic's two nationwide 5G networks.

Under IMDA's requirements, the telcos will have to provide 5G mobile network coverage to at least half of Singapore by the end of next year and scale up to nationwide coverage by 2025.

-THE STRAITS TIMES