

MEDIA FACTSHEET

EMPOWERING OUR BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

1. Digitalisation has transformed the way businesses operate and how we as individuals live and work. Even as the global macroeconomic downturn has presented new uncertainties, the digital economy remains a bright spot, driving growth for businesses and opportunities for our workforce. This is why the Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI) has committed to:
 - a. Helping **businesses** keep pace with rapid technological advances and differentiate themselves from competitors, while safeguarding themselves against new digital risks; and
 - b. Supporting **workers** and those about to join the workforce in acquiring industry-relevant skills to position themselves for new opportunities within the digital domain.

Digital Enterprise Blueprint: Embracing the next bound of digital opportunities for our businesses

2. Later this year, MCI will launch the Digital Enterprise Blueprint, a comprehensive roadmap that builds on MCI's ongoing efforts to drive digitalisation across the economy. In the process, MCI will be consulting industry leaders, trade associations, and companies across different sectors which have worked closely with the MCI-family in developing our upcoming initiatives.
3. Some of these initiatives include:
 - a. **At the national level:** We are developing and scaling the adoption of Digital Utilities, which are foundational digital services to enable firms' access to the Digital Economy, such as CorpPass, InvoiceNow and PayNow. To encourage the adoption of digital utilities such as InvoiceNow, we have rolled out the InvoiceNow Transaction Bonus in November 2022. This provides \$200¹ to all businesses for sending a total of 10 e-invoices on the InvoiceNow network. Currently, companies already have options to onboard CorpPass upon incorporation and PayNow upon setting up bank account². We will be working with service providers to expand this to InvoiceNow.
 - b. **At the sectoral level:** To address sector-specific opportunities and challenges, as well as to ensure that the 20 Industry Digital Plans (IDPs) continue to remain relevant to the needs of SMEs, IMDA will work with the sector lead agencies to progressively refresh our Industry Digital Plans (IDPs) to guide firms on digital solutions and corresponding training programmes to adopt, based on sector and growth stage. Refreshed IDPs for Retail and Security sectors, and a new IDP for Legal sector based on the refreshed IDP framework will be launched in 2023.
 - c. **At the firm level:** We will continue to raise SMEs' digital maturity by extending the Advanced Digital Solutions scheme (ADS), which was launched in 2020 and has supported close to 750 SMEs in adopting 33 advanced and integrated solutions.

¹ First \$50 will be disbursed upon completion of the first e-invoice transaction, and next \$150 will be disbursed if the remaining 9 e-invoice transactions are completed within a year from the first e-invoice transaction.

² Currently, there are 9 participating banks for PayNow Corporate

- d. We will also provide better support for SMEs to protect themselves from cyber-attacks by launching a scheme to provide subsidised cybersecurity consultancy services and tailored cybersecurity health plans to help SMEs work towards national cybersecurity certification. Cybersecurity consultants will take on the role of the SMEs' "Chief Information Security Officers" (CISO), akin to providing a Chief Information Security Officers-as-a-Service (CISOaaS) to SMEs. This initiative will be made available through the existing Chief Technological Officer-as-a-Service (CTOaaS) platform. Refer to [Annex C-1](#) for more details on this scheme.

Empowering our tech workforce: Deepening industry-relevant tech skills for our digital future

4. The I&C sector remains one of our economy's fastest growing sectors, with a long-term growth of 40% in the resident workforce over the past five years. Even after accounting for recent retrenchments, around 9,000 job openings remain available as of September 2022. Beyond the I&C sector, the demand for tech talent across the economy also remains strong, particularly in roles such as cybersecurity and AI. More than half of the tech workforce is employed outside the I&C sector, in areas such as Finance or Manufacturing.

5. MCI is contributing towards government-wide efforts to nurture a resilient future-ready workforce, with a focus on helping our locals access these good tech jobs and in building deep tech skills in high-demand areas.

Upskilling our existing tech workforce to stay competitive with the needs of tomorrow.

6. MCI is working with government agencies to identify the skills and jobs needed to thrive in a fast-changing digital future to anticipate industry needs and guide reskilling efforts for emerging job roles. The I&C Jobs Transformation Map, launched last year, identifies emerging technological trends and assesses their impact on the I&C workforce. It allows employers to pre-emptively improve the quality and relevance of their existing I&C professionals, through guiding them in redesigning jobs, or availing upskilling or reskilling opportunities to their employees. IMDA will scale up reskilling efforts by appointing multiple consortia of training partners to develop flagship reskilling programmes with employers in three key areas: i) Software Engineering; ii) Cloud & Mobility; and iii) AI & Analytics.

7. In partnership with industry, MCI is training deep tech specialists who will be key to maximising the impact of the latest technological developments and progressing our economy to a more advanced stage of digital transformation. These areas include:

- a. **5G:** IMDA has appointed the National University of Singapore and Singapore Polytechnic to lead a consortium of IHLs, telcos and companies known as the Singapore 5G & Telecoms Academy (5G Academy). Since 2020, the 5G academy has equipped around 10,000 professionals with skills in areas such as 5G network architecture or software development, exceeding the initial target of 5,000 set of 3 years since its launch.
- b. **AI:** Through IMDA's TechSkills Accelerator (TeSA) initiative, we have partnered with industry to train around 2,600 people in AI and Data Analytics and place them into good tech jobs. AI Singapore in particular have helped train more than 230 apprentices through the AI Apprenticeship Programme with 80% of them receiving job offers before graduation.
- c. **Cyber:** The Government is working closely with industry partners to build deep cybersecurity skills, with around 1,200 individuals trained and placed in cybersecurity jobs under TeSA (including CSAT), and another 450 trained at the intermediate and advanced levels through the CSA Academy. CSA is also partnering industry to empower more fresh

graduates and mid-career professionals to enter cybersecurity roles such as through the Cyber Security Associates and Technologists (CSAT) Programme. CSA in particular is leading by example through the Cybersecurity Development Programme (CSDP), supporting the training of and hiring 170 cybersecurity engineers since 2020. All individuals who successfully complete the CSDP will be awarded a ModularMaster Certificate in Cybersecurity by the Singapore University of Technology and Design, alongside other industry-recognised cybersecurity certifications.

Empowering Singaporeans to access good tech jobs.

8. Mid-career workers: In partnership with industry, MCI will continue to empower mid-career workers to upskill and access new opportunities through IMDA's TeSA initiative, with around 15,000 locals placed in good tech jobs.

9. Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and Polytechnic Graduates: MCI is enhancing the employability of ITE and Polytechnic graduates through the TechSkills Accelerator for ITE and Polytechnics (TIP) Alliance, launched last year by DPM Heng Swee Keat. The TIP Alliance brings together industry leaders to provide 1,000 job opportunities for our Singaporean students and graduates from Polytechnics and ITE over three years, and equips them with industry-relevant skills. Already, leading employers in both tech and non-tech sectors have stepped up with commitments for 500 job opportunities in high-demand areas such as Software Engineering, Cloud Computing, Cybersecurity, and Network and Infrastructure.

10. MCI and MOE will work closely with Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) to strengthen the many existing linkages with industry by having stronger industry representation in all IHL committees. We will partner Singapore Computer Society (SCS), the leading I&C professional society, and SGTech, the trade association for Singapore's tech industry, to identify key industry leaders and areas for improvement to our tech workforce and graduates.

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CSA TO LAUNCH SCHEME TO DEVELOP CYBERSECURITY HEALTH PLANS WITH FUNDING SUPPORT FOR SMALL-MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

The Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA) will be launching a scheme to develop cybersecurity health plans with funding support for small-medium enterprises (SMEs). The scheme will see cybersecurity consultants take on the role of the SMEs' "Chief Information Security Officers" (CISO), akin to providing a CISO-as-a-Service (CISOaaS) to SMEs facing manpower constraints in hiring cybersecurity personnel.

2 CSA aims to encourage SMEs to improve their cyber defences by going for cyber health "checkups" and to develop cybersecurity health plans, while working towards national cybersecurity certification such as attaining CSA's Cyber Essentials mark. The scheme was announced by Mr Tan Kiat How, Senior Minister of State for the Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI) & Ministry of National Development, at MCI's Committee of Supply Debate today.

3 The scheme seeks to alleviate some common challenges SMEs face in implementing cybersecurity measures, such as:

- A) Lack of in-house cybersecurity staff to address cybersecurity risks
- B) A wide range of cybersecurity solutions and providers in the market, making it challenging for SMEs to prioritise what to implement first
- C) Rising business costs

4 CSA will provide funding support to SMEs by co-funding up to 70% of their costs for engaging cybersecurity consultancy services for the first year. The scope of services will be pre-defined, with an emphasis on baseline requirements to attain the Cyber Essentials mark, which in turn provides SMEs' partners and clients with greater assurance as they digitalise. The scope of services includes helping SMEs to secure digital assets, protect systems against viruses and malware, improve employees' cybersecurity awareness and respond to cybersecurity incidents.

5 CSA will help SMEs mitigate the uncertainty of hiring vendors by having a list of onboarded cybersecurity consultants. Onboarded consultants are evaluated by CSA on their capacity and capability, as well as cost-effectiveness. SMEs will also be able to compare offerings from different consultants and decide which one best addresses their needs and concerns. The appointed consultant will then analyse the SME's cybersecurity posture and tailor a cybersecurity plan for the company.

6 The scheme is expected to launch in May 2023. More details on the eligibility criteria and application process will be made available progressively on CSA's website.

7 Esther Moey, Director, Princeps Law Corporation, said, "The process of attaining the Cyber Essentials mark has been a valuable one. With many of us working from home, we learned about the importance of securing our home network, so we hired a consultant to implement the necessary safeguards. We have also strengthened our processes, such as having dedicated work computers that we do not use for non-work purposes. Given that everyone is digitally connected to one another now, I am very encouraged that the government is incentivising SMEs to improve their cybersecurity. Attaining the Cyber Essentials mark has made my company's data more secure and my clients feel more assured as well."

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About the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore

Established in 2015, the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA) seeks to keep Singapore's cyberspace safe and secure to underpin our Nation Security, power a Digital Economy and protect our Digital Way of Life. It maintains an oversight of national cybersecurity functions and works with sector leads to protect Singapore's Critical Information Infrastructure. CSA also engages with various stakeholders to heighten cyber security awareness, build a vibrant cybersecurity ecosystem supported by a robust workforce, pursue international partnerships and drive regional cybersecurity capacity building programmes.

CSA is part of the Prime Minister's Office and is managed by the Ministry of Communications and Information. For more news and information, please visit www.csa.gov.sg.