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## Mphasis Launches “College Connect” for Engineering Colleges Partnership with Academia to help build industry ready talent

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**Bangalore, April 21, 2008:** Mphasis, an EDS company today formally launched its “*College Connect*” program. Through this initiative, the company will partner with Engineering Colleges to help bridge the gap between academics and industry needs thereby creating talent that can be deployed on real time project work immediately.

A pilot of this program is currently underway, with institutions across India with additional focus on colleges in upcoming cities. *College Connect* is currently being undertaken with Birla Institute of Technology - Ranchi, MIT Pune, MSEC Chennai, New Horizon - Bangalore, NIST Berhampur - Orissa and Sathyabama University, Chennai. As the initiative progresses, the number of colleges and cities will be expanded widely with a focus on developing talent in country’s hinterland.

*College Connect* will reach out to engineering colleges to support academic curriculum with industry know-how, playing a critical supportive role in student development. The initiative has a four pronged approach:

**College-centric** – Support infrastructure development, incubation cells for student/faculty projects, advisory boards and curriculum review, college co-curricular activities through sponsorships

**Faculty-centric** - Support research for faculty driven projects, research grants for faculty to work within EDS/Mphasis and training.

**Student-centric** - Support summer internships, mentoring, shadow programs, scholarships for tuition, conferences, workshops and competitions in key skill areas. Soft skills training is undertaken on campuses to prepare students for life after graduation. Internships for students, on the job training are also included. These students are then potential recruits in a short span of time.

**Employee-centric** - Supports sabbatical for campus teaching, lecture series/workshops and research.

Speaking about the initiative, **Elango R, Chief Human Resources Officer**, Mphasis, said, “As a growing company, we are acutely aware of the gap between demand for skilled resources and the skills of fresh graduates. Organizations today want to recruit the best and the brightest, but often the skills required in a real project or at a workplace are not included in the curriculum. College Connect is an attempt to partner with Academia to bridge that gap and ensure a head-start for students.

“Through College Connect, we hope to further strengthen our ties with the academic community and reach out to a larger audience especially in Tier II cities. We believe that

this program will enhance academic curriculum with reality based industry requirements; thereby, helping build industry-ready talent," he added.

Mr. Lakshminarayana G, Dean of New Horizon, Bangalore said, "With the fast-paced growth of the IT industry and the need to bridge the gap between academically qualified potential employees and employable staff, initiatives like *College Connect* can prove to be extremely beneficial to the overall growth and development of the industry."

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## **About Mphasis**

Mphasis, an EDS company, is a leading – Applications Services, Remote Infrastructure Services, BPO and KPO services provider. We deliver real improvements in business performance for clients through a combination of technology know-how, domain and process expertise. With currently over 24,000 people on the roles, we service clients in Financial Services, Healthcare, Communications, Transportation, Consumer & Retail industries and to Governments around the world.

To know more, please visit [www.mphasis.com](http://www.mphasis.com).

## **About EDS**

EDS (NYSE: EDS) is a leading global technology services company delivering business solutions to its clients. EDS founded the information technology outsourcing industry 45 years ago. Today, EDS delivers a broad portfolio of information technology and business process outsourcing services to clients in the manufacturing, financial services, healthcare, communications, energy, transportation, and consumer and retail industries and to governments around the world. Learn more at [eds.com](http://eds.com).

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