

# Virtual classrooms in IT courses get real

S SHYAMALA

Chennai

IT SERVICES provider SQL Star International Ltd has announced the launch of its comprehensive e-learning portal thelearningport.com. The company has signed a memorandum of understanding with 12 engineering colleges across the country to introduce IT training courses based on the portal.

The training programme will be conducted from July, the start of the next academic year, after college hours. It will enable students to learn the applications of the subjects that they study, said N R Ganti,

chairman and managing director, SQL Star. Students are charged Rs 25,000 for the two-year course. The course is meant for third-year students at present and based on requirements of colleges, it can be customised for final year students as well, he said.

## E-LEARNING

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Graduates who are on the lookout for jobs can also take training through the portal. Classroom sessions for the graduates will be conducted at the company's learning centres, Ganti added. "The programme has been designed to deliver a 'blended model' of offline

and online education. The series of courses offered are a combination of domain knowledge and soft skills training," he added.

The programme also offers interactive features including wikis, blogs, chat and webinars (online seminars) through the portal, apart from mapping students' skill sets, career counseling and resume review. Blended learning is the most recent trend in the e-learning space in the country. Unlike the traditional classroom teaching and online training, the blended model offers scope to assess the progress of students.

The fully automated learning management sys-

tem, which is the core principle behind blended learning, tracks every aspect of the learning process including students' punctuality in attending classes, submission of assignments and understanding of concepts.

"Students get complete visibility of the course - their schedules, participation and progress. A feature MyCalendar helps them to monitor their progress through the course," said Ganti. SQL is also in talks with internet service providers to ensure access to the portal through cyber cafes.

shyamalaseetharaman  
@mydigitalfc.com