

Accenture to Make India its Apac Data Sciences Hub

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Mumbai: Consulting and technology services provider Accenture India may expand its data science team to make it a hub serving the Asia-Pacific.

The more than 500-member team is based out of Gurugram.

To be sure, the proposal is still being discussed, said Anindya Basu, the country managing director of Accenture India and a member of its Apac management committee.

"We have a team of...top-notch data scientists sitting out of Gurgaon (the old name for Gurugram, a satellite town near Delhi)...and everyone is looking at us, the India operations, and saying 'why can't you be the hub for at least a large part of Asia Pacific' (for data science services)," Basu said.

To make this a data sciences hub, the workforce expansion will have to be significant, he said.

IT services providers are acquiring smaller firms that specialise in data analytics and data sciences, but Accenture may look to hire data science

professionals instead, analysts said.

"They have a data analytics platform that can start giving results immediately after being deployed to a client, which is a key differentiator. I think they want to build on the capability and add more data scientists to their portfolio, rather than relying on some other firms," said Mrinal Rai, principal analyst at ISG, a global technology research and advisory firm.

"A number of employees, including those hired from the premier Indian Institutes of Management, are retrained in new technology skills," Basu said. "We are going to colleges to look for talent, and we are retraining a lot of people." Increased adoption of and demand for digital technology services has changed the traditional definition of industries.

"We have a big thing going now internally at the global level - we have certain definitions for industries, whether that definition instead needs to change," Basu said.

Accenture aimed to become a market leader in transforming organisations completely and has invested in talent



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to achieve this, Basu said, referring to the company's priorities for the Indian market.

"One of the things that we do is... there's this plethora of technologies at play. We have picked our own and it's not a small number, where we are getting our people to get deeper into the technology itself. And, that we have done pretty well, better than most, both globally as well as in India..." he said.

Basu also said the company was confident about its deal pipeline for India.

"From a pure domestic market standpoint, I can say that I do not see any softness. In fact, I'm betting on it (being) bigger."