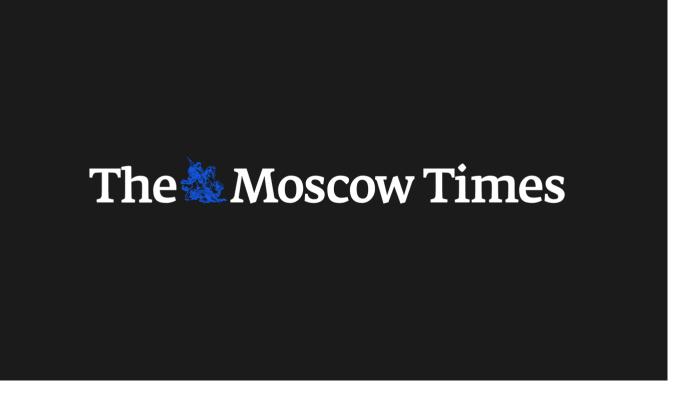


Mail.ru Slams Proposal to Attract Overseas IT Professionals

By The Moscow Times

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Leading Russian Internet company Mail.ru Group slammed a government proposal to attract migrant workers to the country's information technology sector, local media reported Monday.

The country needs to foster its own IT experts, in part by investing more in their education, the company's education director, Dmitry Voloshin said.

Bringing in foreign IT professionals would only be a temporary solution, he said, IT news website PCWeek.ru reported.

The Ministry of Communications and Mass Media said last week that it wanted to ease migration rules for foreign computer programmers.

The move could attract up to 200,000 computer-savvy foreigners by 2020, Vedomosti

reported Monday. 300,000 Russians are currently employed full-time as computer programmers, the paper said.

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