GEMS Education Implements Strong Azure Disaster Recovery Capability with LiveRoute Solution

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, September 25, 2019: LiveRoute, a part of MDS Computers Group and a leading Cloud Solutions Provider in the Middle East, has successfully implemented a complete site level **Microsoft Azure** Disaster Recovery solution for GEMS Education, one of the top international private school operators in the Middle East. This has enabled strong Business Continuity, enhanced compliance and has significantly reduced the overall operational costs.

"For an organization that has the interests of over 120 thousand students from 176 over countries, the parent community and internal teams who are connected via several IT applications, it was important for us to be proactive in our approach to Disaster Recovery. We needed to implement a solution that we could rely on so as to ensure that we are not dependent on the existing network and avoid any lock down," said, Shabeer Mohammed, Vice President – Technology, GEMS Education.

"After an internal study, we decided to step away from the traditional Data Centre model and needed to have an optimized calculated environment which is hosted in the Cloud. One which would negate the high asset costs of a Data Centre and create a viable solution that would do an automatic failover and failback. We are a heavy user of Microsoft technology, and our discussions with LiveRoute, a Microsoft Gold Partner delivering Cloud-based solutions in the region, was the perfect fit to help us move into our Azure Cloud journey which also provides us with a strong Azure Disaster Recovery capability," Mr. Mohammed added.

Since the implementation, GEMS Education has seen a remarkable improvement in operations. At the start, it eliminated the tasks of configuration twice, once at production site and the other at Disaster Recovery site, and there is now an ease of interoperability between both these sites. Simultaneously, it has the dual advantage of using **Microsoft Azure Cloud** capacity for Disaster Recovery as well other requirements making it a multi-pronged capability with easy expansion and contraction. It has also simplified monitoring and testing due to the Cloud capabilities. Additionally, the **Azure Data Centre** contributes to greater levels of guarantee as well as Service Level Agreements.

"On a higher level, LiveRoute has enabled GEMS Education in migrating workloads and achieving Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery (BCDR) compliance for their mission critical business applications (such as Dynamics AX, Service Desk, Email system, Scholarship Information System) spanned across variety of operating system flavours (Windows and Linux) as well as databases (SQL and non-SQL) on Azure Cloud. We designed and implemented the BCDR solution in such a way that GEMS can failover to Disaster Recovery per application using single click automation" - said, Habib Matta LiveRoute/MDS

The LiveRoute DRaaS (Disaster Recovery as a Service) has created a highly flexible and customizable environment for GEMS Education which will tackle the specific needs of the organization. It has lowered the Total Cost of Ownership with the CAPEX model and has also improved data security along with the highest standards of compliance.

While the discussion for the implementation was conducted over a longer period to ensure that the right solutions were designed, the set-up and testing was completed within four months. Since the implementation in the third quarter of 2018, GEMS Education's audits and risk analysis both internally and externally have become much easier with the automated and pictorial logs in real-time.

GEMS Education has always been prudent with its skills pool and has remained self-sufficient in their IT needs. However, during the implementation, additional resources were added to complete the project on time and to be self-sufficient internally. The new IT environment now provides the teams with crucial time to focus on strategic workloads as against day to day fixes.

GEMS Education has always been at the forefront of incorporating technologies to enable their student community to engage with emerging technologies and prepare them to be for an ecosystem that is surrounded by emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality and Mixed Reality.

About GEMS Education

From simple roots in a family of teachers, GEMS Education, is today an international company with schools and education services in UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia & Egypt, making it the oldest, most well-regarded choice for quality private education in the Middle East and North Africa.

- Founded in 1959
- Educating over 120,000 students from over 176 countries
- Over 47 owned schools in the UAE, KSA and Qatar
- 16,000 staff and professionals from over 115 nationalities

About LiveRoute

LiveRoute is a Certified Microsoft Gold Partner in Dubai catering to business IT needs in the form of Consultation, Planning, Implementation and Management of Services. Our Expertise cover the complete Microsoft Technology Stack, Both Cloud and On-Premise. We have portrayed exceptional growth in the region with over 100,000 seats being deployed in the UAE alone and over 300 customers in our various verticals.

- Pioneers of MS cloud services in the region since 2008.
- Microsoft Gold Certified Partner in Dubai.
- LiveRoute is attributed to successfully migrate more than 100,000 users across 300 organizations for Microsoft Office 365 across UAE, GCC and Levant.
- Provides award-winning Managed IT services.
- A team of certified professionals that bring industry standards

LiveRoute is a part of the MIDIS Group – an international organization comprised of over 170 affiliates and partners across the emerging markets of Europe, the Middle East and Africa. It now has more than 5000 professionals, over 50 of the world's leading IT suppliers, and a solid 50-year track record of performance and reliability.