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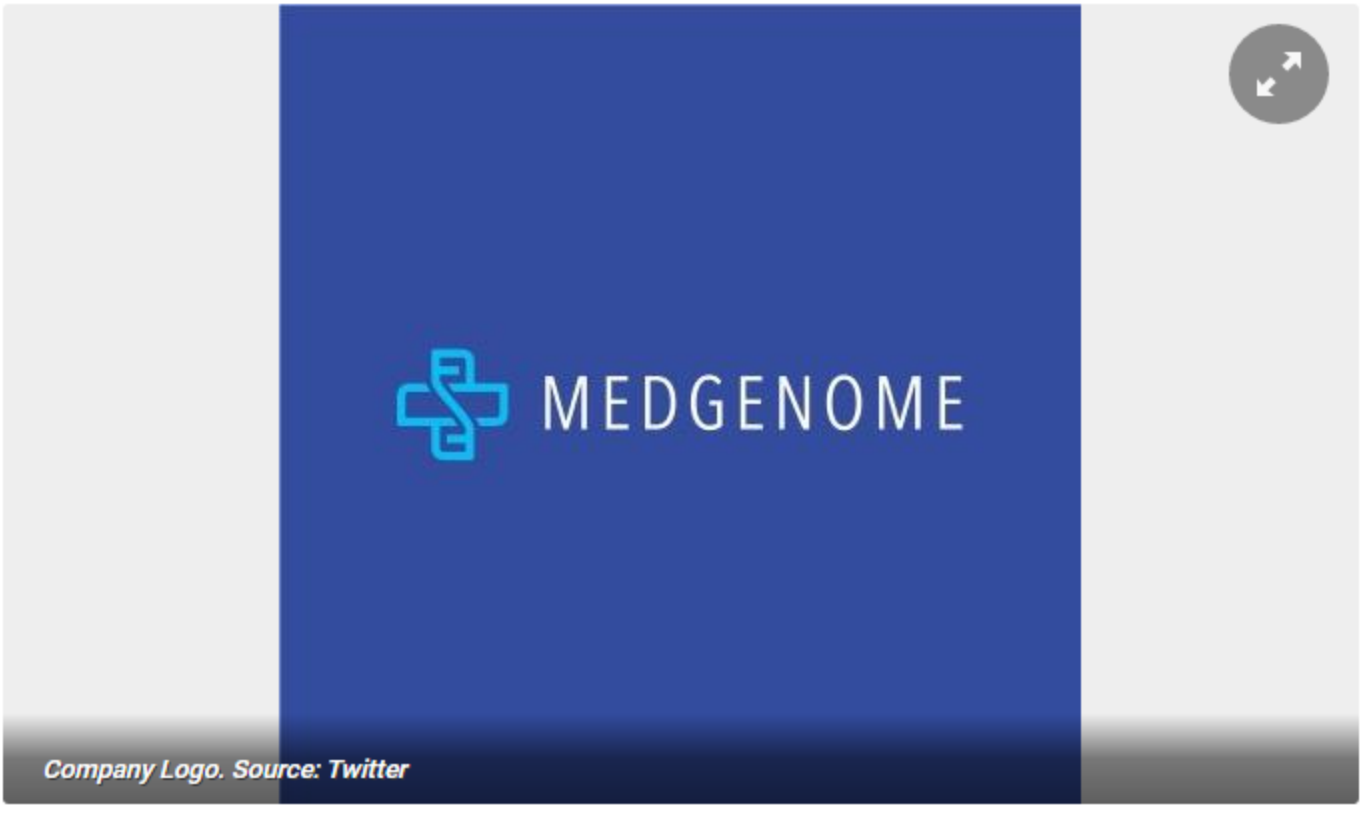
MedGenome plans pan-India expansion

The company is keen to look at additional funding from strategic partners who share the common vision of utilising genomics to understand complex human diseases.

By YV Phaniraj | Published: 2nd Jan 2017 1:00 am Updated: 2nd Jan 2017 1:53 pm



Company Logo. Source: Twitter

Hyderabad: One of the co-founders of 'Genome Asia Project', MedGenome, the Bengaluru-based, diagnostics and genomics research company, aims to study genomes of one lakh Asians to help accelerate Asian genome specific medical advances.

The company which was incorporated in 2013, is actively using next generation sequencing, collaborating with various hospitals and setting up diagnostic centres

with an eye to ensure its presence in 200 Indian cities in the coming years.

The company which raised $4 million in Series A in 2013 and $20 million in Series B funding in 2015, said, is keen to look at additional funding from strategic partners and who share the common vision of utilising genomics to understand complex human diseases.

MedGenome is a referral lab for several diagnostic labs, which do not have in-house genetic testing capabilities. It provides referral diagnostic services to centres such as Sir Ganga Ram Hospital of Delhi, Centre for Human Genetics of Bengaluru and Mohan's Diabetes Centre of Chennai.

The company carries out neurological genetic diseases screening (such as epileptic diseases and delayed development in children), genetic testing and screening for cancers and cancer treatment, NIPT (non-invasive pre-natal test for chromosomal disorders) and pre-natal screening and diagnosis for in vitro fertilisation cases, genetic testing for eye disorders, muscular and cardiac disorders.

On the scale of operations, MedGenome NIPT Program Director, Priya Kadam, said, "MedGenome lab offers over 300 genetic tests across all key disease areas and has a network of more than 400 hospitals for diagnostics and over 10 research collaborators across the country. In Hyderabad, we have tied up with Rainbow Hospitals for NIPT and are also getting samples from Fernandes Hospitals."

"We conduct different genetic tests- single, panel or whole genome, depending on the case. In the case of NIPT, research shows that risk of chromosomal disorders increases with maternal age," she explains.

Talking about the company's future expansion, she told *Telangana Today*, "We will expand to South Asia where burden of genetic diseases is high, carry out large scale genomics research to understand underlying genetic reasons for complex human diseases, expand our NIPT offerings as a complete solution, develop our collaborations with biopharma and bioinformatics capabilities to generate insights from the genomic data."

MedGenome has a NGS (next generation sequencing) research facility at Foster City, California, USA. This according to the company will open a large opportunity for MedGenome to be a key partner to biopharma companies in research services, enabled by the bioinformatics and solution design capabilities it has.

The company recently acquired Illumina X 10 machine, which allows high genomics throughput screening, claimed to be the highest in throughput capacity in Asia.