GE enters into pact with Maharashtra government for upgrading healthcare

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GE enters into a PPP with Maharashtra government for upgrading healthcare

In a consortium which includes the public health department of the government of Maharashtra, Wipro GE Healthcare and Ensocare by Enso Group, a public private partnership project will advance healthcare in the state of Maharashtra for setting up advanced diagnostic facilities at 22 government district and women hospitals. It will operate on a 24/7 hour basis and provide services at government recommended rate cards for the benefit of the broader population. Orange and Yellow 'Below Poverty Line' (BPL) card holders will be entitled to receive free diagnostic services under the Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayee Arogya Yojana (RGJAY) scheme at all the 22 facilities which are expected to be operational within a year.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Prithviraj Chavan, Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra said, "Today, we are on to a first-of-its-kind, large scale modernization of district hospitals with latest diagnostic technologies. No single agency can transform the entire healthcare system in the country but by working together with partners like GE and Ensocare, we can take a giant leap in advancing health care to people at all levels in society."

The PPP agreement with Government of Maharashtra is the largest in terms of scale and includes the installation of four units of 64 slice CT scanners, 13 units of advance 16 slice CT scanners, eight units of cutting- edge 1.5T Magnetic Resonance Imaging systems, 22 high-end digital radiography systems, 39 color Doppler's and 39 analog X-ray units. These advanced world-class imaging systems will allow district hospitals provide early and accurate diagnosis on a 24/7 basis in the clinical specialty areas of neurology, cardiology, vascular imaging, emergency/trauma, oncology, obstetrics and gynaecology, orthopedics, gastroenterology, in addition to providing general purpose radiology. Also, women's health is given a special boost with the inclusion of 20 screening mammography units for early breast cancer detection.

John Rice, vice chairman, GE said, "Providing high quality, accessible and affordable healthcare is one of the biggest challenges faced by governments all over the world. We are delighted to playing our part towards a healthier India and in helping to bridge the healthcare disparity."

Commenting on the new partnership, Mr Banmali Agrawala, president and CEO GE South Asia said, "This PPP is the second partnership that we have forged with Maharashtra, the first being GE's setting up of its advanced multi-modal manufacturing plant at Chakan near Pune that we announced last June. This is testament in the progressive development of the state that we believe in the long run will be both economically and socially beneficial to people who live here. We look forward to more partnership opportunities in the future."

38 district and other large hospitals under Government of Maharashtra cater to about 100 million people. It is estimated that in a year, these hospitals carry out 100,000 CT scans, 50,000 MRIs, 300,000 color Doppler studies, 900,000 X-rays and 40,000 mammography exams for early detection and treatment of diseases. In the absence of quality diagnostic imaging equipment, patients are frequently, referred to private centers which substantially increases the cost of treatment.

With this, GE Healthcare becomes the first company in India to design a PPP model to deliver quality imaging services comparable to super specialty units in government hospitals. Since the first project with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Medical College in Jabalpur in 2007, GE has successfully executed PPP projects spanning four states in India benefitting approximately 500,000 poor and needy patients.