

# Manipal AcuNova bags order from GE Healthcare

OUR BUREAU  
Bangalore, 23 January

**M**anipal AcuNova has bagged an order from GE Healthcare to conduct trials and research on diabetes, cardio-vascular and Parkinsons' disease patients.

Addressing reporters here on Monday, D A Prasanna, vice-chairman and managing director, Manipal AcuNova, said that the order follows a three-month-long extensive joint exercise by both companies.

Also, the company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with GE Healthcare to upgrade and strengthen the infrastructure of Manipal AcuNova in India to carry out clinical research, trials and data management.

Manipal AcuNova's research facilities are located at Bangalore, Mangalore and Manipal. The company also has wholly-owned subsidiaries in the US and UK.

The company had recently received private equity funding of Rs 11 crore from IL&FS Investment Managers through its India Leverage Fund.

Manipal AcuNova on Mon-



Vice chairman, GE and chairman GE Health Care, Sir William Castell (right) is being greeted by Manipal Group chairman Dr Ramdas Pai and vice chairman and MD, Manipal Acunova, D A Prasanna (centre) at the inauguration of Asia Clinical Research Centre, at Whitefield in Bangalore on Monday.

day opened its Asia Clinical Research Centre at Whitefield. William Castell, vice chairman, GE Healthcare opened the facility.

Asia Clinical Research Centre is expected to carry out clinical drug development and drug discovery research. It also houses a central reference lab, ra-

diology core lab and a cardiac safety monitoring lab and is expected hire 150 professionals.

The facility in Manipal fo-

cusses on clinical research, bio-availability and bio-analytical, the one in Mangalore on clinical research and the one in Bangalore on clinical research and advanced molecular diagnostics.

Speaking at the inauguration, William Castell said, "The centre is a fine example of India's growing role in the global knowledge economy and is a testament to the country's availability of high calibre science, IT and other graduates."

"GE has also taken advantage of the excellent skills base and placed new research, manufacturing and support facilities in India and I know that with the entrepreneurial spirit that Manipal and other businesses show, the future for more investment of this type in India is bright."

"Since its inception some nine months ago, Manipal AcuNova has conducted over 22 studies (Phase II to Phase IV) in varied therapeutic areas," said Dr Ramananda Nadig, chief operating officer, Manipal AcuNova.