

## UK pours \$500 mn in genome sequencing

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**Singapore:** In a move to accelerate genome sequencing and bring breakthrough in cancer treatment in the country, UK has invested around USD 500 million in genetic research in a four year project.

The project will allow scientists to do pioneering new research to decode 100,000 human genomes, a patient's personal DNA code. Sequencing the genome of a person with cancer or someone with a rare disease will help scientists and doctors understand how disease works.

The project has the potential to transform the future of health care, with new and better tests, drugs and treatment. UK plans to map 100,000 human genomes by 2017.

Now, as world leading research organisations join forces, the 100,000 Genomes Project has reached a major milestone in a package of new investment.

Prime Minister David Cameron has also unveiled a new partnership between Genomics England and the company Illumina that will deliver infrastructure and expertise to turn the plan into reality. As part of this, Illumina's services for whole genome sequencing have been secured in a deal worth around USD 131 million.

In turn, Illumina will invest around USD 273.39million into the work in England over four years, creating new knowledge and jobs in the field of genome sequencing. The investment is directed for the life science industry to thrive and create opportunities for talented UK scientists to lead the world.

Prime Minister Mr David Cameron commented, "This agreement will see the UK lead the world in genetic research within years. I am determined to do all I can to support the health and scientific sector to unlock the power of DNA, turning an important scientific breakthrough into something that will help deliver better tests, better drugs and above all better care for patients.

"As our plan becomes a reality, I believe we will be able to transform how devastating diseases are diagnosed and treated in the NHS and across the world, while supporting our best scientists and life science businesses to discover the next wonder drug or breakthrough technology."