

IIT Madras, Forus to develop image computing system

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Bangalore: The Healthcare Technology Innovation Center (HTIC) at IIT Madras, India, has created Eye-Pac, a computing technology for extracting information from eye images. HTIC is collaborating with a young Indian medtech company called Forus Health, which has indigenously built a revolutionary ophthalmic imaging system named 3nethra, to develop a custom image computing solution for 3nethra based on HTIC's Eye-Pac technology.

The Eye-Pac technology can be deployed to create screening and diagnostic solutions for a range of vision-threatening diseases, such as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration.

The custom solution that will emerge out of the collaboration will enhance visual appearance of eye images produced by 3nethra and locates disease signs that may lead to vision loss at a very early stage. Eye-Pac technology's intelligence in extracting clinically important information enables screening for eye diseases even when an expert is not available. Those who are tested positive during screening can later be sent to an expert for referral and diagnosis. This capability of Eye-Pac combined with 3nethra's ability to perform eye-examination without dilatation (which saves time for patient and operating personnel) enables affordable and large scale screening.

Mr K Chandrasekhar, founder and CEO, Forus Health, said that, "Powered by HTIC's Eye-Pac technology, 3nethra has now reached over 140 installations across 10 countries, namely India, China, France, Thailand, Guatemala, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Oman, Mauritius, and Somalia."

Prof Bhaskar Ramamurthi, director, IIT Madras, said that, "It is a matter of great satisfaction that the HTIC of IIT Madras has been able to, within two years of its inception, partner with an Indian tech start-up to develop a world class product with tremendous impact in bridging the yawning gap in ophthalmic screening in India and elsewhere."