

Sathguru launches \$100 million trilateral venture fund

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HYDERABAD: City-based Sathguru Management Consultants Pvt Limited on Friday launched trilateral venture fund with an initial corpus of \$100 million (about Rs 450 crore) to fund early stage technologies in agriculture,



(From Left) Kannan Vijayaraghavan, Chairman, Kannan Raghunathan, Director, Sathguru Management Consultants, addressing a press conference in Hyderabad on Friday.

health and clean energy and help them towards commercialisation for the benefit of people in developing as well as developed countries.

"This trilateral business model involves partnerships among advanced research labs from the West; Indian labs in public and private system as well as partners in Africa, South Asia and South East Asia," said Kannan Vijayaraghavan, Chairman, Sathguru Management Consultants. The company would invest \$20 million in first tranche in 2011 and the remaining amount at a later date.

"The fund's focus will be on technologies and innovations related to agriculture and life sciences, health including human and animal health, and energy and environment including clean technologies," he said.

"We will identify new innovations and inventions which are in the early stages. Our investment will go as equity and we will be with the entity or firm till the innovation or invention is commercialised or even beyond that," he added.

The initiative will focus on crop improvements; post harvest and process technologies; vaccines and therapeutic products for animals; diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic products for humans; and environmental engineering, clean energy and bio-remediation.

The Sathguru Management Consultants had doing similar activities using funds from other agencies, but, with launch of the venture fund, the company would infuse its own funds."We have already nurtured about 60 innovations using \$60 million investments from development and commercial investment sources. We will, through the venture fund, will invest to commercialise some of those innovations," he said.

The company's IT Division launched Sathguru@Retail, an ERP product for retail sector. "This product is a comprehensive ERP solution for retail sector and it's is based on Oracle platform. It has been designed and developed as per international best practices in the retail industry," said Mr Kannan Raghunathan, Director, Sathguru.

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