

Apollo-Bramwell Hospital introduces revolutionary Heart Scan Technology

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(Port Louis, Mauritius) - British American Investment is proud to announce that the Apollo-Bramwell Hospital project is in its final leg and is now undertaking the installation of several revolutionary state-of-the-art equipment, including the Dual Source CT Scan called DSCT.

The CT Scan 2x64 slices is the world's first Dual Source CT, which uses two X-ray sources and two detector arrays at the same time. The two X-ray sources at right angle to each other make the CT scanner the fastest in the world. This technology from Siemens, dubbed SOMATOM Definition, is twice as fast as (the currently available) 64-slice cardiac CT scanners.

Says Dr Ed Hansen, Chief Executive Officer of Apollo Bramwell Hospital: "We are very pleased to introduce the CT Scan 128, a high-performance facility which was not available in Mauritius until now. The new machine's speed is an important advancement in diagnostic cardiology, as the technology is twice as fast compared to other CT machines in Mauritius. It captures high resolution images of a beating heart in seconds without the need for heart slowing medications."

"Due to the high scanning speed, it is now possible to acquire scans of the thorax, the heart or both at the same time in fractions of a second. For example, thorax examinations will only require a scan time of 0.6 seconds. As a result, patients no longer have to hold their breath during the scan. This offers considerable advantages, especially in cases involving the elderly, children, emergency, and ICU patients," adds Dr Hansen.

It is also possible to perform whole-body scans extremely fast: For example, a person with a height of 6 feet 6 inches can be scanned in less than 5 seconds. Until now, such whole-body examinations took more than 10 minutes to perform from patient preparation to diagnosis. With the DSCT, this process is completed in just a few minutes.

"This represents a definite advantage, especially for emergency medicine since – until now – physicians often had to forego this examination method due to time pressure. Furthermore, it is no longer necessary to sedate children prior to the examination, since they no longer have to remain still," says Dr Hansen.

In addition to its speed, the Dual Source CT offers the ability to better characterize soft tissues e.g. Type of renal stones: type of atherosclerotic plaques in arteries.

Basically, the dual source CT is a unique tool to:

- Determine heart disease in patients who have or may have inconclusive cardiac stress test results
- Accommodate obese patients (up to 220Kg) who are difficult to image with less powerful CT scanners
- Identify or follow-up congenital heart abnormalities
- Act preoperatively for some electrophysiology patients and high risk surgical patients who may have heart disease.

Also being installed is the Philips 1.5 Tesla Whole Body MRI, which provides advanced diagnosis for all patients and examinations. The equipment provides uncompromised quality in challenging applications like large field-of-view abdominal and breast imaging, uniform fat suppression in all anatomies and consistent off-centre imaging across all patients.

In all, medical equipment worth around Rs400million are being installed at ABH, with an additional Rs200million in terms of ICT infrastructure.

"Apollo-Bramwell will be a state-of-the-art hospital in the region with the highest standards of patient care and with wide-ranging facilities under one roof. These two equipments are just examples of the high level technological support that we are bringing to the country," Dr Hansen said.

About Apollo Bramwell Hospital

The 200-bed, multi-speciality hospital, in Moka, in the centre of the island, is a joint venture between leading Mauritian business group, British American Investment Co. (Mtius) Ltd, and India's healthcare giant, Apollo Hospitals Group. The new hospital will house centres of excellence in cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery, neurology and neurosurgery, nephrology and ophthalmology, neonatology and paediatrics, trauma and cosmetic surgery. Total investment in the project is estimated at over US\$70 million (over Rs2billion) with employment opportunities for over 500 staff. As a centre of medical excellence in the region, the new hospital will be equipped to welcome patients from both Mauritius and overseas.

About BA Investment

Based in Mauritius, British American Investment Co. (Mtius) Ltd is a fast-moving investment group with holdings in financial services, transportation, construction and property development, tourism, trade and commerce, and healthcare.

About Apollo Hospitals

Apollo Hospitals Group is the largest healthcare provider in Asia. With more than 7,000 beds in 43 hospitals, a string of nursing and hospital management colleges, and dual lifelines of pharmacies and diagnostic clinics providing a safety net across Asia, Apollo Hospitals is a healthcare powerhouse.

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