

S Africa awards \$33m respiratory contract to Cipla

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Reuters

CAPE TOWN: South Africa has awarded Cipla Medpro a 345 million rand (\$32.6 million) share in the national respiratory tender as Africa's most advanced economy seeks to cut high asthma mortality rates, the company said on Thursday.

"In South Africa, asthma is the third most common cause of hospital admissions of children, yet only 2 per cent of asthmatics receive treatment", chief executive Paul Miller said in a statement.

South Africa has the world's fourth highest asthma death rate among 5-35 year olds, with thousands dying each year from a disease which causes shortness of breath, wheezing and coughing, according to the Global Initiative for Asthma.

The contract runs from the beginning of next month to April 30, 2017 and will see South Africa's third largest pharmaceutical company providing asthma medication.

Cipla is a pharmaceutical company based in Mumbai, India. Cipla makes drugs to treat cardiovascular disease, arthritis, diabetes, weight control, depression and many other health conditions. On 31 March 2013, its market capitalisation was \$5.6 billion, making it India's 41st largest publicly traded company by market value.

Cipla manufactures a range of pharmaceutical and personal care products. The company offers active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs); and formulations in therapeutic areas, such as



Health issues

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allergy, analgesic, anti malarial, anti-infectives, cardiology, dermatology and cosmeceuticals, diabetology, gastroenterology, HIV-AIDS, hormones and steroids, iron chelators, musculoskeletal, neuropsychiatry, nutritional and ophthalmic products, oncology, respiratory, urology, and women's health in various dosage forms.

It also provides veterinary products for various animals, including companion, equine, general care, live stock, and poultry. In addition, the company offers inhaled medication and devices, such as dry powder inhalers, single-dose capsule and multi-dose dry powder inhalers, breath-actuated metered dose inhalers, non-static spacers, baby and infant masks, and nasal sprays.

Company