

MakeMyTrip launches Bangalore operations

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Online travel company MakeMyTrip.com launched its Bangalore operations on Tuesday by inaugurating its first regional office in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, MakeMyTrip.com Founder and CEO Deep Kalra said, "The Bangalore market presents a huge opportunity to travel solutions providers. It has always had a strong corporate travel opportunity and today the leisure travel industry too is booming."

The company which recorded sales of Rs 550 crore as of March 2007, plans to double that amount by the end of the present fiscal.

MakeMyTrip.com started off its

operations in the US way back in 2000 and during September 2005 started Indian operations. Close to 45 per cent of the Rs 550 crore comes from the US market while the rest from India. This share of 55 per cent is expected to move up to 70 per cent from the end of the current fiscal.

While Kalra did not disclose investment figures for Karnataka, he said that the company plans to increase its outbound sales in the State from the present 3 per cent to 7 per cent.

Bangalore is believed to represent 16 per cent of the travel and tourism market in India, growing at 25 per cent year-on-year and is expected to be worth Rs 2500 crore in the next three years.