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**INGERSOLL RAND partners with SANKARA EYE HOSPITAL for “GIFT OF VISION – COMMUNITY RURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM”**

*The initiative will take eye care services to the doorstep of beneficiaries from rural and underprivileged backgrounds*

**Bengaluru, February 25, 2015:** As part of its social convergence initiative, Ingersoll Rand has partnered with Sankara Eye Hospital, Bengaluru for the ‘Gift of Vision’ – a Community Rural Outreach program. The program has been launched to help benefit economically disadvantaged people in remote, rural areas with a special focus on preventive and curable blindness. Ingersoll Rand is supporting the program by donating a customized medical van through which the hospital aims to touch the lives of over 20,000 beneficiaries with 12,000 patients likely to benefit through surgical intervention.

The Sankara Eye Hospital, through its community outreach program, has screened 3,89,939 children for eye ailments and performed 1,00,752 vision restoration surgeries till January 2015. This year the hospital aims to reach out to 12,000 beneficiaries by conducting up to 144 camps and perform approximately 23,000 free surgeries.

The customized vehicle provided by Ingersoll Rand will be dedicated to the Medical team at Sankara Eye Hospital to conduct camps in districts of Bangalore Rural, Bangalore Urban, Mysore, Tumkur, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Ramanagara, Mandya, Chamraj Nagar in Karnataka as well as districts of Chittoor & Anantpur in Seemandhra. The vehicle will also help the team to commute to the camp-site to conduct a post-operative review of the operated patients after 30 days of surgery.

Commenting on the initiative, **Swati Bhattacharya, Vice President - Corporate Relations, Public Affairs and Branding, Ingersoll Rand India** said, “At Ingersoll Rand, we are committed to making a difference to the communities in which we live and work. Through our social partnerships, we are making constant advances in our efforts in creating a world of sustainable progress. Today, blindness a major health concern in India with around 20% of the global blind population in the country. We believe that preventing blindness can help increase access to education, employment and prosperity, and enable greater participation from the economically

weaker sections of our society. Our partnership with Sankara is an endeavor towards achieving that goal and deliver value to our society.”

“Karnataka is home to 1 million blind people and more new cases of cataract are being added to the existing backlog every year. We are delighted to collaborate with Ingersoll Rand for our flagship program – Gift of Vision intended to provide high quality eye care to all, irrespective of socio economic considerations. Through this program we will move a step closer to overcoming the barriers of lack of availability, affordability and accessibility of eye care services encountered by the poor and the needy”, shared **Dr. R V Ramani, Founder & Managing Trustee, Sankara Eye Foundation.**

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#### **About Ingersoll Rand in India**

Ingersoll Rand is committed to India and is implementing strategies for product innovation and design for Industrial Technologies; Food Safety; Energy Efficiency and Sustainability. The company is based out of 18 locations in the country. Ingersoll Rand believes that Innovation for emerging economies is critical for products to succeed in these markets. The company has three world class manufacturing facilities at Naroda, Sahibabad and Chennai; and two Engineering and Technology Centers at Bangalore and Chennai. Ingersoll–Rand (India) Limited is listed on the National Stock Exchange of India and the Bombay Stock Exchange. For more information, visit [www.ingersollrand.co.in](http://www.ingersollrand.co.in).

#### **About Sankara Eye Foundation**

Sankara Eye Foundation is a Non Profit NGO part of the Kanchi Kamakoti Medical Trust founded in 1977 at Coimbatore with a vision to provide quality eye care to its discerning patients.

Sankara Eye Hospitals is one of the premier chains of tertiary super-specialty eye care hospitals in the country with state-of-the-art facilities. Sankara is well known for affordable, super-specialty eye care covering entire spectrum of eye diseases. It is center of excellence for Cornea, Retina, Ocular Cancers (Retinoblastomas), Glaucoma, Paediatric Ophthalmology, Cataracts, Oculoplasty and Lasik. Additionally it is one of the few hospitals which provides services for Low Vision Therapy, Vision Rehabilitation and Eye Bank.

Sankara has a chain of 13 eye hospitals comprising a team of 200 doctors, 600 paramedical professionals, 275 support staff and total bed strength of 1800. It has treated and performed more than 1.2 million Free Eye Care Operations and every day about 500 eye care Operations are performed in Sankara Hospitals.