

The Daily Transcript[®]

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017

LEADING STARTUPS/NEW BUSINESSES

Along with its great weather, military presence and world-famous zoo, San Diego is known for its innovative minds. Many work in relative obscurity, tolling away on some new technology that may make our lives easier or provide a boost to the local economy.

For our inaugural Leading Startups/New Businesses special section, we want to put these entrepreneurial residents into the spotlight so they can get the credit they richly deserve. Remember the names of these inventors and their companies. They just may become a household name soon.

— The Editors

STARTUPS



NEW BUSINESSES

Time is precious in health care. San Diego-based Edico Genome has created a processing platform that can analyze DNA in minutes instead of hours, a diagnosis tool that's being put to use in hospitals, biotech companies and research institutions.

"Physicians and researchers can get to the real meaning of the DNA. They don't have to wait days to analyze all of this information," said Pieter van Rooyen, Edico Genome's president and CEO.

Edico Genome's bioinformatics processing platform, called Dragen, can analyze a human genome in just 22 minutes. By comparison, traditional DNA analysis methods can take 30 hours. Dragen can also compress and store the data efficiently.

Van Rooyen said the technology is particularly useful to customers with high genomic demands, and when quick diagnoses can mean life or death. For example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention uses Dragen to analyze genomic samples in bacterial and viral species, and Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego uses it to diagnose genetic diseases in critically ill neonatal intensive care unit patients.

Edico Genome was launched in 2013 through the San Diego-based technology incubator EvoNexus. The startup has about 42 employees, and is growing in size and reach. Van



FROM LEFT, GAVIN KOSVINER (CFO), PIETER VAN ROOYEN (CEO), GAVIN STONE (VP OF MARKETING) AND RAMI MEHIO (VP OF ENGINEERING)

Edico Genome

BIOTECH

Rooyen said Dragen will advance research in rare diseases and oncology.

"Because cancer is a genetic disease, sequencing and DNA analysis plays an important

role," he said. "We're making a real difference in genomics. It's very fulfilling to contribute to this fundamental field that's opening up, to touch more and more lives."

— Jennifer McEntee

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*Pieter Van Rooyen,
CEO & Founder*