

China's Aier Eye Hospital Group Plans to Operate US Clinics

MARCH 3, 2017: BY JOAN MCKENNA

China-based Aier Eye Hospital Group plans to operate eye care clinics in underserved US markets, according to a **Feb. 10 article** in The Tennessean.

Aier established a holding company, Aier-USA, in the US in 2016, with a starting fund of \$50 million, and named Ming Wang, MD, of Wang Vision Institute in Nashville, as CEO, The Tennessean reported.

Wang Vision Institute will serve as a flagship for Aier and a training site for doctors on new technologies. Wang has operated his Nashville laser vision center since 2002. The China native moved to the US in 1982.

Wang did not give The Tennessean an estimate on how many US clinics Aier might operate; he said the facilities may be built or acquired.

Aier is the largest eye hospital chain in China, operating 100 free-standing eye hospitals that provide mainly LASIK and cataract surgery and optometric services, according to Market Scope research.

Also, Aier announced in January 2017 plans to acquire a 75 percent stake in AW Healthcare Management LLC, a privately held eye-care center with headquarters in Nashville, for \$18 million, according to Reuters.



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