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Ulsan Regulation-Free Special Zone to Start Testing and Applying Genome-based Bio Big Data

- The Special Zone began testing for the development of diagnostic markers by disease and the building and operating of a biodata farm using bio big data related to genetics and medical information
- It is expected to provide various types of customised medical services and lead to the growth of the healthcare service industry

The Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Minister LEE Young, hereafter referred to as MSS) and Ulsan Metropolitan City (Mayor KIM Doo-kyum) announced that the “Application Testing for Biodata Farms based on Genome Data of 10,000 People” began at the Ulsan Genome Service Industry Regulation-Free Special Zone (hereafter referred to as Ulsan Genome Special Zone) on Monday, July 4.

The Ulsan Genome Special Zone was designated with a goal to “invigorate the biohealth industry by building and applying genome-based bio big data.”

With a total of two testing privileges for three detailed projects, the Ulsan Genome Special Zone will conduct testing for all detailed projects simultaneously to quickly verify safety to modify various laws and regulations with its existing biodata farm (opened in March 2022).

For SMEs to provide bio-healthcare-related services, a large volume high-quality biodata was needed. However, due to the lack of data and application restrictions, these companies faced limitations to commercialize services.

Therefore, with three testing projects including the “Biodata Farm Building, Operating, and Testing Project” with the regional infrastructure in Ulsan from the Genome Data from 10,000 People Project, it will be possible to provide a foundation for the invigoration of the biohealth industry.

The first task, **“Biodata Farm Building, Operating, and Testing Project”** aims to build a biodata farm that can collect, analyse, and monitor bio big data related to genetics and medical information, and provide good quality bio big data to companies and others.

It is expected that the biodata farm would become a foundation to develop various healthcare services.

The second task, **“Developing and Testing Diagnostic Markers by Disease Project”** aims to use bio big data from the biodata farm to develop diagnostic markers that can predict in detail various diseases (cardiovascular diseases, depression, complex chronic diseases).

The markers would contribute to developing cutting-edge healthcare technology, such as customized diagnosis and treatment.

The third task, **“Testing for Infectious Disease Response Platform Project”** aims to build an in-depth data analysis platform for data on those with infectious diseases to develop testing kits, vaccines, and potential treatments.

< Testing Projects of the Ulsan Genome Service Industry Regulation-Free Special Zone >

		
Biodata Farm	Diagnostic Markers by Disease	Infectious Disease Testing Kit

Before testing, collateral conditions were met with a fair decision-making process, a separate institutional review board, and regular reviews to secure expertise and ethicality regarding providing genetic information within the biodata farm.

Director KWON Hye-lin of the MSS Regulatory-Free Special Zone Planning Division stated, “The data and expertise from the biodata farm will give the biohealth industry an innovative competitive edge.”

She added, “We will actively support the tests so that the industrialization of genome information will lead to the growth of various types of customized medical care and healthcare service industries.”