

Thomas Cook's HR arm Iky Group to buy Hofincons Infotech and Industrial Services

CHENNAI: India's largest integrated travel company Thomas Cook (India)'s majority-owned human resources and staffing arm Iky Group will buy Chennai-based industrial asset management firm Hofincons Infotech and Industrial Services.

Iky will buy Hofincons from Transfield Services Australia for an estimated deal value of Rs 75-100 crore, a source with direct knowledge of the negotiations told ET.

Hofincons Infotech has interests in electrical, mechanical and instrumentation services as well as facilities management. The company had revenue of Rs 150 crore in FY14 and counts Grasim, Reliance Industries, Coca-Cola and PepsiCo as its top clients.

The company employs more than 6,000 people. Ajit Isaac, chairman of the Iky Group confirmed the deal, but refused to disclose the financial details.

"The acquisition is a strategic fit and will further strengthen Iky's position as India's leading player in the business services space," he said.

Isaac also said the acquisition also comes at the right time when sentiments in the economy are looking up and industrial activity in terms of power and infrastructure is expected to go up.

Thomas Cook is promoted by Prem Watsa-controlled Fairfax Financial Holdings through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Fairbridge Capital.

Last year, Thomas Cook bought a majority 74% stake in Iky for Rs 256 crore. Headquartered in Bangalore, Iky has 75,000 employees and operates in 22 cities in India, the Middle East and South East Asia.

The group had revenue of Rs 1,400 crore for the 12 months ending March 31, 2014.

