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Turkish group Dunya Goz Hastanasi, which also trades as World Eye Centers, which claims to be the largest private eye hospital in the world, has confirmed that it has an offer to sell a 25% stake to the National Bank of Kuwait which it is considering. It plans to open centres in six new countries. In Europe it already has four examination centres in Berlin, Cologne, Amsterdam and Belgium.

It plans to open two more in Albania and Romania this year with Kiev and Azerbaijan to follow in 2010. Patients are examined locally but all treatment takes place in Turkey. A spokesman said that in 2009 the group will treat 30,000 non-Turkish patients.

The operation has seven hospitals in Istanbul, one in Ankara and one in Izmit. It has also just unveiled a massive 10,000 metre centre in the city resort of Antalya aimed at healthcare tourists. It opened its first outlet outside Turkey in Berlin in 2005.

As well as offering Lasik surgery, the company handles cataracts and glaucomas. Within Turkey, it runs mobile clinics and works for the public health service.

LASIK eye surgery rates have been massively impacted by the recession in most countries with big US operators seeing operations halving. But the spokesman said that the offer from the National Bank of Kuwait was unsolicited and that the group had not seen a severe downturn.

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