

This genome sequencing machine can decode a person's genetic code twice as fast as before — driving costs down to just \$200 a pop

Ten years ago, it cost about \$10,000 for researchers to [sequence a human genome](#). A few years ago, that fell to \$1,000. Today, it's about \$600.

Now, sequencing is about to get even cheaper. At an [industry event](#) in San Diego today, genomics behemoth Illumina unveiled what it calls its fastest, most cost-efficient sequencing machines yet, the NovaSeq X series. The company, which controls around 80 percent of the DNA sequencing market globally, believes its new technology will slash the cost to just \$200 per human genome while providing a readout at twice the speed.

Follow the latest news and policy debates on sustainable agriculture, biomedicine, and other 'disruptive' innovations. Subscribe to our newsletter.

[SIGN UP](#)

Francis deSouza, Illumina's CEO, says the more powerful model will be able to sequence 20,000 genomes per year; its current machines can do about 7,500. Illumina will start selling the new machines today and ship them next year.

"As we look to the next decade, we believe we're entering the era of genomic medicine going mainstream. To do that requires the next generation of sequencers," deSouza says. "We need price points to keep coming down to make genomic medicine and genomic tests available much more broadly."

Sequencing has led to [genetically targeted drugs](#), blood tests that can [detect cancer early](#), and diagnoses for [people with rare diseases](#) who have long sought answers.

[This is an excerpt. Read the original post here](#)