

International

Indian giant Fox Mandal to open in London

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Fox Mandal Little has unveiled plans to have four lawyers in London by the end of the year, as the leading Indian firm eyes further international opportunities in Singapore and the US.

The office, which the firm plans to have operational by December, is the 300-lawyer firm's first office outside the subcontinent.

As an interim measure, firm managing partner Som Mandal will spend between eight and 10 days per month at the new City branch. However, the firm hopes to recruit a partner to practice in the UK on a permanent basis.

Mandal told *Legal Week*: "We are looking for premises at the moment but hope to be here by the end of the year. [Other places] that are on our radar include Singapore and the US. We looked at Dubai but decided our efforts are best focused elsewhere."

The firm – India's largest by lawyer headcount – has been one of the most vocal supporters for liberalisation of the Indian legal market and Mandal is confident that the opening up of one of the world's hottest emerging legal markets will happen within the next 12 months.

He commented: "I believe the first step is for international firms to be permitted to practise foreign law in India. I think this could happen within months rather than years."