

Media Release

Creation of the start-up aktiia

A revolution in monitoring hypertension!

Neuchâtel, 22 May 2018 – To provide a digital solution to the worldwide scourge of hypertension: That’s the ambition of the company aktiia. This start-up will create a new generation of blood-pressure monitors using a special technology developed by CSEM. Eagerly expected by the medical world, this innovation enables the continuous, wireless measurement and monitoring of blood pressure with precision.

According to the World Health Organization, more than one in three adults suffers from hypertension, a condition which leads to 7.5 million deaths in the world each year. A major cause of strokes and heart attacks, hypertension is particularly devious, as it is often not detected in time. Developed more than a century ago, the traditional sphygmomanometer – that measures it using an armband – will at long last make way for a new technology combining comfort and reliability.

Improving the quality of life of hypertension sufferers

Up until now, no completely satisfactory solution has been found, such is the challenge of developing a suitable technology. Now CSEM has come up with the oBPM™ technology (optical blood pressure monitoring) which – using optical sensors and clinically validated algorithms – allows continuous measurement in a discreet way.

Just created, the start-up aktiia will leverage this solution to market a bracelet that can collect this precious information. “We are going to create a precise, affordable tool that is certified by the health authorities,” explains Mattia Bertschi, co-founder and CEO of this new company, before stating: “The potential of this type of product has enabled us to quickly attract a solid base of investors”. “The *sphygmomanometer 2.0* also aims to improve the prevention of hypertension, to better understand its causes, and to develop new approaches to treating it” adds Josep Sola, co-founder and CTO of aktiia.

Digitalized health – a made-to-measure niche market for Switzerland

The development of solutions for assessing the health of astronauts during space missions is the basis for CSEM’s competencies in the monitoring of vital signs. Its technology portfolio has already enabled interesting start-ups such as AVA and Biospectral. For its CEO, Mario El-Khoury, the creation of aktiia is a logical result of 10 years of work, and is a source of great satisfaction : “Digitalized health is a very promising domain for the Swiss economy, and CSEM’s cutting-edge know-how in sensors, the processing and transmission of data, and low power consumption will serve its growth.” Aktiia expects to put its product on the market around 2020.

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About CSEM

CSEM—technologies that make the difference

CSEM, founded in 1984, is a Swiss research and development center (public-private partnership) specializing in microtechnology, nanotechnology, microelectronics, system engineering, photovoltaics and communications technologies. Around 450 highly qualified specialists from various scientific and technical disciplines work for CSEM in Neuchâtel, Zurich, Muttenz, Alpnach, and Landquart.

Further information is available at www.csem.ch

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About aktiia

aktiia – The Optical Revolution for Blood Pressure Monitoring

Aktiia was founded in 2018 to commercialize its proprietary cuffless optical Blood Pressure Monitoring technology (oBPM™) in order to contribute to the prevention of high blood pressure, to save lives and to help reduce healthcare costs worldwide. aktiia is headquartered in Neuchatel (Switzerland) with offices opening up in Zurich (Switzerland) and US. Further information is available at www.aktiia.com | info@aktiia.com

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