

PRESS RELEASE

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New AI technology empowers robust automatic recognition and early detection of Parkinson's symptoms

Emteq and audEERING, both leading innovators in the field of emotional sensing, have joined forces to improve the lives of people with Parkinson's Disease, creating a solution that will enable better personalised treatment of the condition through continuous tracking of symptom severity.

Parkinson's Disease is a chronic and disabling neurodegenerative disorder whose prevalence increases with age – an increasing problem to an increasingly aged global population. Today, around 10 million people worldwide are affected by Parkinson's. Medication type and dosage for Parkinson's varies with the individual, but today no mechanism exists to enable clinicians to continuously and objectively track the effectiveness of prescribed medication, or the patient's adherence to the prescription. Getting the medication right is, therefore, an iterative and often difficult process carried out with only subjective feedback from the patient.

Emteq's emotion sensing AI technology reads facial expression and physical movement through wearables that continuously track digital biomarkers from the wearer, enabling the next generation of emotionally aware devices, applications and digital assistants. To assist with Parkinson's symptom monitoring, Emteq are developing a "normal" pair of glasses (spectacles) that can track, interpret and gauge many of the key physical indicators of Parkinson's Disease in the wearer, providing actionable information for personalisation of treatment by clinicians, and better symptom management for the patient.

Working with the Emteq team, the leading audio AI innovator audEERING has developed a novel audio AI model based on its proven technology that can automatically detect vocal changes associated with Parkinson's Disease with a high degree of accuracy, empowering Emteq to incorporate this voice analysis into their product and thus providing an additional biomarker for enhanced detection and therapy.

The smart glasses will be subject to a clinical trial in the second half of 2019 with planned availability in 2020. This initiative has been made possible by the award of a grant by InnovateUK under the Health and Life Sciences fund 2017.

Graeme Cox, CEO at Emteq commented: *"By adding vocal biomarker analysis to our emotion AI platform, this collaboration will provide significant value to our drive to monitor key symptom levels in Parkinson's Disease. Voice analysis provides important information on physical and emotional wellbeing and audEERING are leaders in this field".*

Dagmar Schuller, CEO at audEERING commented: "We are deeply committed to our work in the medical sector with our audio and emotionAI - this allows a completely new dimension with detecting and treating certain diseases, especially in the field of neurocognitive disorders where very early stages are often shown in speech. We can detect such anomalies very early which allows an enhanced treatment and therapy."

About Emteq Ltd www.emteq.net. Emteq is a UK-based startup that enables emotional interaction with technology. Emteq's emotion AI platform is a set of transformational technologies for emotion analysis with applications in entertainment, commercial and medical research.

About audEERING GmbH www.audeering.com.

audEERING was founded in 2012 as a spin-off of the Technical University of Munich. Today, audEERING is the only European company driving innovation in emotional artificial intelligence focused on intelligent audio analysis. Using innovative machine intelligence and deep learning techniques, audEERING's products are able to automatically analyze e. g. acoustic scenes, speaker states as well as over 50 emotional states. audEERING's customers include multinational companies such as Huawei, BMW, GfK, Red Bull Media House and Ipsos.

About Innovate UK www.innovateuk.gov.uk. Innovate UK is the UK's innovation agency. It works with people, companies and partner organisations to find and drive the science and technology innovations that will grow the UK economy.

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