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SIXTHSENSE Kick-off Meeting Press Release

Freiburg, 18 June 2020

Lifesaving technology for those charged with saving lives

The European Project *SIXTHSENSE* on health monitoring with sensory feedback for enhanced situational awareness was launched in Donostia-San Sebastián on May 19-20, 2020

On May 19 and 20, the kick-off meeting of the EU-funded project *SIXTHSENSE* – “Smart Integrated eXtreme environment Health monitor with Sensory feedback for ENhanced Situation awareNess” took place in the virtual space shared between nine participating countries. The project is a multidisciplinary innovation and research action with the overall aim of developing a wearable health monitoring system with closed loop tactile biofeedback, that allows first responders in hazardous situations to sense their current health status. It will allow early detection of risk factors that could lead to rapid deterioration of health or operation capabilities of first responders, by leveraging predictive models based on multimodal biosensor data (e.g., lactate, Na, K, HR, temperature). As a team management tool, it will enable real-time monitoring of all deployed operatives, helping increase team effectiveness and operational safety.

To help accelerate the pace of technological advancements aimed at first responders, beyond the scope of the project, *SIXTHSENSE* will establish a novel research methodology for sustainable inclusion of first responders in a co-development process.

SIXTHSENSE is funded withing the EU Horizon 2020 programe as a 36 months project, with the overall funding of €7.242.442,5. The project consortium comprises 21 organisations from nine European countries, coordinated by TECNALIA Research & Innovation (Spain). The project consortium comprises three universities: Aalborg Universitet (Denmark), Universidad de León (Spain) and Technische Universitaet Chemnitz (Germany); five European Research and Technology Organisations: TECNALIA (Spain), Joanneum Research Forschungsgesellschaft (Austria), BioNanoNet Forschungsgesellschaft (Austria), Eucentre Foundation (Italy) and Tecnalia Serbia (Serbia); two large industry representatives: Jobst Technologies (Germany) and Metrohm DropSens (Spain); and five SME partners: Senetics healthcare group (Germany), TeleGroup (Germany), Smartex (Italy), Global Electronic Solutions (Serbia), BiFlow Systems (Germany) with different areas of expertise. The project also counts active participation from first responders organisations, as Serbian Mountain Rescue Service, Association of Mountain Rescue Organizations of B&H and four fire fighter companies with different profiles from Gumpoldskirchen (Austria), Postojna (Slovenia), Rijeka (Croatia) and Pavia (Italy), and a fire rescue training and risk management experts - IFR (Austria).

JOBST TECHNOLOGIES GmbH (www.jobst-technologies.com) a German corporation, located in Freiburg's Biotech Park & Innovation center, was originally founded in 2002 at the Institute of Microsystems Technology IMTEK (University Freiburg). Since 2015 Jobst Technology is an affiliated company of IST AG, a Swiss sensor technology company (www.ist-ag.com). The international successful products of the company are based on microsystems and are complete solutions with biosensor arrays, microfluidics, electronic measurement equipment, and software. This combination enables for multi- parameter real time monitoring in nanoliter volumes at very low flow rates, an outstanding specialty the company offers. In the SixthSense project exactly this unique expertise will be applied for the development of minimal invasive patch sensors for continuous lactate monitoring of first responders. As known from sports medicine, a high lactate level is a clear indication of exhaustion, a physical condition not always recognized by first responders on duty. Foreseen further applications encompass intensive care, rehabilitation, and sports.

For further information see the project's website <https://sixthsenseproject.eu>.

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