

News story: New stress-reducing wristband 'doppel' reaches first backers

Jack Hooper, Chief Product Officer and a company founder, wearing a doppel.

After a 2-year testing and development phase, the team at London-based technology start-up, [doppel](#), have begun sending their new stress-reducing wristband, also called doppel, to customers.

The company has now been able to reward early investors who supported the project through [Kickstarter](#), the online funding platform for creative projects, by sending them the first wristbands to leave the production line.

Proof of market for empathic wearables

Jack Hooper, CPO and one of the founders of doppel, said:

When we set out on this journey we knew our idea could improve lives but we weren't sure if it stacked up as a commercial proposition. Fortunately, initial funding from Innovate UK gave us the chance to test the market.

The work we did with the grant gave us the evidence and confidence to launch a successful Kickstarter campaign that raised more than £110,000 through 820 backers. This allowed us to develop our proposition and, since then, we've raised further funding and have also secured a manufacturing partner which has saved significant upfront costs.

For us, Kickstarter wasn't a marketing campaign, it was a way to see if doppel had a chance. It's been tough, and we've had our setbacks, but seeing the amazing responses from our first customers makes it all worth it.

A new way to naturally reduce stress

Research in psychology and neuroscience shows that humans respond intuitively and naturally to different rhythms. Slower tempos result in calm and positive emotional states while fast rhythms are more associated with emotional states such as joy, excitement and surprise.

doppel uses a heartbeat – the rhythm we all experience first as embryos – in a silent and subtle way. Our brains respond to this rhythm and we begin to entrain to it, in a similar way to how we respond to music.

The wristband works by creating a silent vibration on the inside of the wearer's wrist which feels like the 'lub-dub' of a heartbeat. Unlike most wearables, doppel doesn't count steps or send notifications. Instead, it is designed to help people stay calm under pressure and focus on tasks. It enables wearers to become more alert or to relax, without having to turn to caffeine, sugar or alcohol, or time-consuming methods such as meditation.

Creating a crossover market to boost sales

The doppel has been available to pre-order since late 2016 and the company aims to launch the wristband online in the next couple of months.

Its novel approach provides an opportunity to exploit the potential of two massively expanding markets – wearables and mindfulness, worth an estimated \$14 billion and \$27 billion, to create a new crossover segment. The company has identified the US as its biggest market and plans to set up a subsidiary there to boost sales.

Hooper added:

We see doppel as the next step for wearable technology. doppel is active, not passive. It goes beyond monitoring and does something for you. Within a minute or two of use, you feel the change. You don't need to see a graph for it to work and you don't need to download your data for it to change your day.

Our brains haven't evolved to process data, our brains have evolved to process experiences. We think the technology of today gives us data but the technology of tomorrow will give us experiences.

[News story: New laws to protect your home address at Companies House](#)

The law has been changed to make it easier to remove your home address from the company register. This applies to company directors and others such as secretaries, people with significant control (PSC) and LLP members, whose home address is publicly available on company documents.

To remove your home address, you can apply at a cost of £55 for each document you want to suppress.

You must provide an alternative correspondence address if you're still

appointed to a live company, such as a current director. This will replace your home address on the public register.

If you're no longer appointed to a company, you do not need to provide an alternative address. Instead, only the first half of your postcode will be available to the public.

You cannot use this process to remove a home address if you've used it as a company's registered office.

News story: Alvegesic vet. 10 mg/ml Solution for injection for Horses, Dogs and Cats – Product defect recall alert

We wish to make wholesalers and veterinarians aware that Alvetra u. Werfft GmbH has issued a batch recall of Alvegesic vet. 10 mg/ml Solution for injection for Horses, Dogs and Cats (Vm 32802/4000) due to contamination during production.

The following batch is affected:

- Product: Alvegesic vet. 10mg/ml, 10mI – Batch No. P00545 EXPIRY: 03-2019

For further information regarding the recall, please contact Mette Thulstrup Bruhn: mette.bruhn@dechra.com

News story: Developing cutting-edge commercial ideas: apply for funding



Female tourist uses a smart city device to get directions in Barcelona.

Innovate UK has up to £20 million to invest in cutting-edge ideas that could have an economic impact.

Projects can work on disruptive and game-changing ideas in any sector of the economy or any field of technology.

They can be of various kinds from small feasibility studies to longer industrial research or experimental development projects.

Alongside this competition, there is also an opportunity for businesses to apply for Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs).

- the competition opens on 10 May 2018, and the deadline for applications is at midday on 11 July 2018
- it is open to businesses working alone or with other businesses and researchers
- projects must include at least one micro, small or medium-sized enterprise
- we expect projects to range in size between £25,000 and £2 million and for them to last between 6 and 36 months
- businesses could attract up to 70% of their project costs
- a briefing event will be held on 14 May 2018

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News story: Bradford & Bingley mortgages sale to return £5.3 billion to UK taxpayers

A £5.3 billion sale of Bradford & Bingley (B&B) mortgages acquired by the taxpayer during the financial crisis has been authorised by the Chancellor, Philip Hammond. The sale will enable the full repayment of the Financial

Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) loan to B&B, marking a major milestone in the plan to recover taxpayers' money.

Following a highly competitive auction, two portfolios of mortgages will be sold to an investor group led by Barclays Bank PLC. The proceeds from this sale will be used to repay the FSCS's loan to B&B in full and in turn reduce the national debt.

There will be no changes to the terms and conditions of the mortgages sold. Borrowers do not need to take any action.

The Chancellor, Philip Hammond said:

We are determined to recover the money the taxpayer invested during the financial crisis as soon as we can. The sale of these Bradford & Bingley loans is yet another significant step in putting the crisis behind us.

The proceeds of this sale will go towards reducing our national debt and securing a brighter future for the next generation.

B&B's and NRAM Limited's (formerly part of Northern Rock) closed loan books are managed by UK Asset Resolution (UKAR) on behalf of the taxpayer. Following today's (26 April 2018) transaction, UKAR now owns c.£14 billion worth of assets, down from £21 billion in September 2017 and from £116 billion in 2010.

This sale will raise sufficient funds for B&B to repay its loan from the FSCS – made at the time of nationalisation to finance the transfer of customers' deposits to Santander UK – which will, in turn, allow the FSCS to repay its own loan from HM Treasury. Repayment of these loans will end the need for a special levy on deposit-taking banks and marks the end of a legacy of the 2008 financial crisis.