

A German health-sector association coordinating an R&D project on an AI-based, multilingual dialogue app for the mental balance of healthcare professionals seeks a French SME as partner for a Franco-German ZIM cooperation project (deadline 18 Nov 2026)

Summary

Profile type

Technology request

Company's country

Germany

POD reference

TRDE20261007032

Profile status

PUBLISHED

Type of partnership

Research and development cooperation agreement

Targeted countries

• France

Contact Person

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Term of validity

7 Oct 2026
7 Oct 2027

Last update

7 Oct 2026

General Information

Short summary

A German consortium (health association, two universities, one AI/software SME) is preparing EMBER, an AI-supported, multilingual dialogue application that detects strain early and supports healthcare professionals in daily work. For the 13th Franco-German ZIM call (deadline 18 Nov 2026) we seek a French SME in digital health, health AI, wearables or gamification that contributes its own R&D share under a research and development cooperation agreement.

Full description

EMBeR (Empowerment & Mental Balance for resilient health professions) is a digital prevention and support application for professionals in nursing, medicine, therapy and related care professions. These groups face work intensification, shift and night work, emotionally and physically demanding situations, interprofessional conflicts and boundary experiences. Internationally recruited staff face additional linguistic and cultural challenges that remain largely unsupported today.

EMBeR makes psychological and physical strain visible early, supports self-reflection and coping, and provides a clear crisis pathway to suitable help services when critical signals appear. The technical core is an AI-supported dialogue and signal architecture. It processes speech and text input, language patterns, usage behaviour and shift context; optional voice and wearable signals can be added later. From these signals the system derives indications of strain, stress patterns or critical situations and offers matching support: short evidence-based exercises, reflective dialogues, systemic conflict reflection, motivational design elements and an integrated crisis pathway. The application does not replace therapy or medical treatment; it complements existing prevention and support structures.

Key technical targets: robust processing of heterogeneous signals, low response times for mobile use, a data-minimising and GDPR-compliant architecture, traceable detection of strain and crisis indications, bias checks in language and dialogue, multilingual usability and transferability across professional groups and institutions. Regulatory boundaries (MDR, EU AI Act) are addressed from the start.

The German consortium consists of a health-sector association coordinating the project, a medical university (chair of systemic psychotherapy) providing the psychological foundation and intervention logic, a university of applied sciences contributing medical content on stress detection and coping and leading ethically responsible gamification and evaluation, a second university of applied sciences for UX/UI research, a consultancy for information security, data protection and medical device regulation, and a German AI/software SME that develops the dialogue and signal architecture and acts as German applicant. A project outline with use cases, work packages and a competitive analysis exists; the project was submitted as a national ZIM sketch in June 2026 and is now being realigned as a Franco-German cooperation project.

We seek a French SME (registered company, not a university) with a link to digital health, AI in healthcare, wearables or gamification that contributes its own research and development share and submits its part of the application to Bpifrance. French universities and research institutes are welcome as additional scientific partners, not as the applicant company. The exact task of the French partner is defined according to its strengths (see expected role). Project duration and budget are set jointly during application preparation.

Advantages and innovations

EMBeR fills the gap between therapy apps and general employee assistance programmes. Existing digital health applications are mostly indication-based and built for treatment or structured programmes; employee assistance offers counselling but is not tailored to clinical daily work, shift work, interprofessional conflicts or internationally recruited healthcare staff.

EMBeR combines several components into one application: a profession-specific healthcare context; multilingual and diversity-sensitive dialogue; adaptive strain detection from natural dialogue and usage situations; short interventions usable within minutes under time pressure; ethically responsible motivational design that fosters voluntary use, self-efficacy and continuity without pressure, competition or dependency effects; and a clearly delimited crisis pathway. The architecture is data-minimising, GDPR-compliant and designed for EU hosting.

Core R&D challenges addressed in the project: deriving robust strain indicators from natural dialogue in noisy, time-pressured, multilingual clinical settings; a reliable balance between sensitivity and avoidance of false alarms in crisis detection; and fair, transferable model logic across professional groups, language patterns and cultural contexts. The primary market is B2B: hospitals, care providers, professional associations, health universities and occupational health management, where strain, absenteeism, turnover and staff retention are central cost drivers.

Technical specification or expertise sought

We seek one French SME as cooperation partner in the 13th Franco-German ZIM call (deadline 18 November 2026). The partner must be a company registered in France, contribute its own research and development share (not pure subcontracting) and submit its part of the application to Bpifrance.

The concrete task is defined according to the partner's strengths. Possible roles, individually or combined:

1. French-language dialogue processing and localisation, including access to pilot users in French healthcare institutions and evaluation in the French care context.
2. A technical component such as wearables measuring vital, sleep or other stress-related parameters that feed the signal architecture.
3. Gamification and graphical solutions: motivational, ethically responsible design elements and user interface components.
4. A platform, hosting or avatar component complementing the German development partner.

Suitable partner profile: SME in digital health, health AI, wearables, serious games or gamification, ideally with experience in Franco-German or European funded projects (ZIM, Eurostars, Horizon Europe). The German side brings the project concept, the scientific partners and the core development partner; the French partner joins an existing consortium with a defined outline.

Timeline: first contact and a short exchange call as soon as possible, joint decision on the consortium by mid-October 2026, joint application preparation until 18 November 2026. If the November deadline cannot be met, the cooperation can be continued in a later Franco-German or national call.

Stage of development

Concept stage

Sustainable Development goals

- **Goal 10: Reduced Inequality**
- **Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**
- **Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being**

IPR Status

No IPR applied

IPR Notes

Partner Sought

Expected role of the partner

We seek a French SME (registered company, not a university) with a link to digital health, AI in healthcare, wearables or gamification that contributes its own research and development share and submits its part of the application to Bpifrance. French universities and research institutes are welcome as additional scientific partners, not as the applicant company. The exact task of the French partner is defined according to its strengths (see expected role). Project duration and budget are set jointly during application preparation.

Type of partnership

Research and development cooperation agreement

Type and size of the partner

- **SME 50 - 249**
- **SME 11-49**

Dissemination

Technology keywords

- **01004001 - Applications for Health**

Targeted countries

- **France**

Market keywords

- **05007007 - Other medical/health related (not elsewhere classified)**
- **02007012 - Medical/health software**

Sector groups involved

- **Digital**
- **Health**
- **Electronics**