



## **JIB makes phone calls accessible to people with heavy physical disabilities through its new app**

**Paris, 6th of April 2022 - For more than eleven millions of Europeans, physical disability or reduced capabilities due to advanced age make phone calls impossible. To fix this situation that can be a source of social exclusion and generate great dependency, French startup JIB has developed an app that makes phone calls accessible to everyone.**

The UK has more than 6 millions of elderly people over 80 years old and 1.5 millions of daily users of wheelchairs. For a population for which mobility of hands and arms is affected, modern phones are ill-adapted and answering a call is a great challenge. For the people suffering from heavy pathologies such as Lou Gehrig's disease, multiple sclerosis, myopathia, or heavy quadriplegia, interacting with fingers on a phone screen is physically impossible.

*"While doing a field co-creation workshop in a medical residence, we've discovered that people with reduced mobility have a really hard time having a normal and independent use of phones. Very often, they require the assistance of a helper to type the phone number, press on the speaker button and hold the phone next to the mouth. This is just absurd in 2022!"* says Thomas GROELL, CEO and co-founder of JIB.

*"By working with health professionals like occupational therapists, a simple yet effective idea was born with the app JIB CALLS. We've created an app that allows a hands-free and intelligent interaction with phones. The app adapts to one's life habits and favorite contacts. The adaptation of interfaces required a lot of work to adapt to populations using their wheelchair's joystick to click on the smartphone or those that have visual impairment"* adds Lucas COIADO MOTA, CTO and co-founder of JIB.

*"I work with a population of people with multiple sclerosis losing their independence. My patients have a smartphone but couldn't call or answer calls by themselves. Tools like Siri or Google Assistant allow neither to put on speaker mode nor to answer incoming calls. Since I equipped my patients with JIB CALLS, they regained their independence and gained a lot of freedom. They do not depend anymore on someone to make a call for them, I can even call to warn them of changes in our meeting's schedule!"* testifies Rémi SAJOT, occupational therapist near Tours (France).

### **How does it work?**

Once the JIB CALLS app is downloaded on an Android smartphone, the user defines their availability time slots and their favorite contacts. For each incoming call from an authorized contact at an availability time slot, the call rings for 10 seconds before being automatically answered without using one's hands.

Outgoing calls are commanded vocally with Google Assistant and put on speaker mode by JIB CALLS, or triggered by typing number on a number pad adapted to difficult gripping and use of side buttons dedicated for physical disability (also called switches).

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**ABOUT JIB SMART HOME**

Founded in 2018 by Thomas GROELL and Lucas COIADO MOTA, JIB Smart Home is a social enterprise which mission is to foster autonomy of people with disabilities by developing smart tools based on apps, adapted softwares and connected devices.

JIB gives access to digital tools to people with heavy disabilities and develops apps that connect smartphones to all essential services for autonomy, such as smart home, nurse call, phone calls, communication tools.

JIB's uniqueness resides in its ability to develop - in cooperation with beneficiaries and health professionals - assistive tech specifically adapted to heavy pathologies, such as quadriplegia, myopathia, cerebral palsy, Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) and multiple sclerosis, for which apps and tools must be adapted to allow a complete access to populations that often suffer as well from visual or cognitive impairment or speech impediment.

JIB is known in France, its home-country, as a leader in innovation of assistive technologies and is recognized by the French government as a social enterprise of social utility (ESUS label).

JIB has more than 20 reeducation centers and medical residences equipped with its solutions, 600 users with physical disability made more independent and interacts with over 2000 occupational therapists. Thanks to JIB, in just 4 years, over 3 million actions essential to one's daily life (such as controlling TV or medical bed, making a call, calling for help etc.) have been made possible.

[www.jib-home.com](http://www.jib-home.com)