

Press release

calmea obtains CHF 150,000 from Venture Kick to bring its sleep intelligence layer to bed manufacturers

St.Gallen/Zurich/Lausanne, June 8, 2026 — The ETH spin-off calmea has received CHF 150,000 from Venture Kick to help bed manufacturers turn ordinary beds into intelligent sleep systems, giving sleepers a clear picture of their rest and a path toward deeper, more restorative sleep, without wearables or cables.

Chronic stress and poor sleep affect more than a third of adults, reducing well-being and productivity while driving significant healthcare costs. The sleeptech startup calmea addresses this challenge with a sensorized module installed directly between the bedpost and the bed frame. The system helps people understand their sleep and identify the habits and patterns that undermine it, with nothing to wear and no devices in the bed.

[calmea](#) operates as a B2B2C infrastructure platform rather than a direct-to-consumer hardware brand. Its measurements are powered by custom, highly sensitive electronics paired with machine-learning algorithms. The resulting data flows into a companion app that explains the causal relationships between environmental factors and the physiological processes driving sleep. Smart-home integration enables automations such as raising blinds or switching on lights when the user enters a light sleep stage. The company's goal is to transform the bed from a passive piece of furniture into an intelligence hub that actively supports better sleep.

The startup addresses the fast-growing sleep-tech device market, expected to expand from USD 30 billion in 2025 to USD 134.7 billion by 2034. Through leading manufacturing partners, calmea reaches premium, health-conscious bed buyers, targeting a USD 13.4 billion serviceable available market across Europe and North America.

The CHF 150,000 from Venture Kick will co-fund calmea's path to commercialization, specifically prototype installations in preparation for pilot series with manufacturing partners already engaged.

The startup was founded by Dr. Alexander Breuss, Manuel Fujs, MSc, Leo Küng, Levin Engeli, and Prof. Robert Riener, who combine expertise in sleep science, engineering, go-to-market strategy, and product development.

"Venture Kick challenged us at every stage to think bigger and sharper. Beyond the funding, the real gift was access to a network of seasoned investors and founders, as well as honest feedback we received during the Kickers Camps. Stage 3 is a proud milestone and a strong signal to potential investors and future partners," highlighted CEO Alexander Breuss.



Co-founders Leo Küng (CCO), Levin Engeli (Lead Engineer), Manuel Fujs (CTO), and Alexander Breuss (CEO)

[calmea's profile on Venture Kick](#)

About Venture Kick

The Venture Kick philanthropic initiative provides more than 1 million in seed funding to Swiss startups and offers a well-structured entrepreneurial path toward building a winning business. Startups pitch to Venture Kick juries in three stages to obtain CHF 150,000, gain direct feedback, and access a network of 250 international investors. Winners of Venture Kick are eligible for an InnoBooster grant of CHF 150,000 and an additional CHF 850,000 investment from the Kickfund.

Since its launch in 2007, Venture Kick has supported 1,286 Swiss startup projects with CHF 103 million from private donors. Thanks to financial support, coaching, and networking with investors, this initiative has led to the emergence of 1,000+ thriving startup companies and the creation of 16,100+ jobs. Venture Kick alumni companies have attracted investments of CHF 10.2 billion and represent 66 companies ranked in the Top100 Swiss Startups in 2025 (<https://www.top100startups.swiss>).

Venture Kick is an initiative by the Kick Foundation, supported by a private consortium and operated by Venturelab. The supporting foundations and private philanthropic partners include Gebert Rüt Stiftung, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Fondation ALCEA, Hauser-Stiftung, André Hoffmann, Hansjörg Wyss, Martin Haefner, Fondation ProTechno, ESA BIC Switzerland, Swisscom, Lichtsteiner Foundation, and Deep Tech Nation Switzerland Foundation.

Find more information on venturekick.ch, with [all startup projects supported by Venture Kick](#), and follow the success stories of our startups on [LinkedIn](#).

Management contacts

Beat Schillig, Co-Managing Director, +41 79 358 04 19 (DE/EN)

Jordi Montserrat, Co-Managing Director, +41 78 708 18 04 (FR/EN)

Media contacts

Rita Longobardi, +41 58 767 00 20 rita.longobardi@venturelab.swiss (EN/IT/DE)