



## Okto Acoustics wins the third edition of the Open Innovation Challenge

**The start-up OKTO Acoustics has won the third edition of the Elia Group Open Innovation Challenge of Elia and 50Hertz. This time, the competition aimed to improve daily operations of the two transmission system operators in asset management and maintenance applying new digital technologies and concepts. At the closing event of the competition yesterday in Berlin, the company from the Danish capital Copenhagen prevailed against four other finalists. This time 83 start-ups and SMEs (Small to Medium enterprise) applied for the competition.**

The winner OKTO Acoustics got the votes of the jury – executive managers of the Elia Group - and of the guests of the closing event. The company has developed a software that uses artificial intelligence to identify and evaluate a wide variety of sounds. Used in or on an electrical installation, the solution could, for example, distinguish normal operating sounds from anomalies or detect unauthorised access. OKTO receives a 20.000 Euro prize and will also implement the idea in collaboration with the Elia Group within Elia in Belgium and 50Hertz in Germany.

The Elia Group organized the Open Innovation Challenge for the third consecutive year.



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## About the Elia Group

### One of Europe's Top Five Players

The Elia Group is active in electricity transmission. We ensure that production and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end-users with electricity. With subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and north-west Germany (50Hertz), we operate 18,600 km of high-voltage connections. As such, our group is one of Europe's top 5. With a reliability level of 99.999%, we give society a robust power grid, which is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition towards a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

### We make the energy transition happen

By expanding international high-voltage connections and integrating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy production, the Elia Group promotes both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of our society. The Elia Group is also innovating its operational systems and developing market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus making the energy transition happen.

### In the interest of society

As a key player in the energy system, the Elia Group is committed to working in the interest of society. We respond to the rapidly changing energy mix, i.e. the increase in renewable energy, and constantly adapt our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. When we carry out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication with all affected parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to our sector and relevant authorities to build the energy system of the future.

### International focus

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, the Elia Group provides various consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia is also part of the Nemo Link consortium that is building the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and the UK.

The Group operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

**More Information:** [elia.be](https://www.elia.be)