

**Date:** July 7, 2017

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***Voiceitt, a 2015 43North Winner, Announces***

***$2 Million Raise and Beta Launch***

*Voiceitt has developed an app to enable people with*

*speech disabilities to communicate*

**Buffalo, NY -** Voiceitt, a 201543North winning startup with offices in Tel Aviv, Israel and Buffalo, NY, has raised $2 million in seed funding to accelerate development and commercialization of its speech recognition technology for people with speech impairments. The funding is from Buffalo Angels, Amit Technion, Cahn Capital, Dreamit Ventures, Quake Capital, 1,000 Angels and other Angel Investors. Voiceitt has also announced that they are seeking beta testers for their voice recognition technology that can recognize particular pronunciations from users with speech disabilities. The company has also matched this investment funding with $2M in government grants, including the BIRD foundation grant, awarded to Voiceitt along with its WNY-based partners, SCJ Associates, Griffith Consulting and ProductLogic.

Voiceitt’s proprietary speech technology opens up communication for individuals with cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, brain injury, stroke, and other diagnoses or disorders correlated with mild to severe speech impairments. Voiceitt’s algorithms recognize the user’s unique speech patterns and outputs their statements into text as well as audio. This enables those with speech impairments to communicate verbally with anyone face to face, and in the future may also utilize voice-controlled technologies. While services like Apple’s Siri, Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa only work for users with normal speech, Voiceitt has the potential to make all this technology accessible to even those with the most unrecognizable speech. With about 1.3% of the general population, or 4 million Americans, suffering from speech language disorders, Voiceitt fills a need for millions of people around the world who lack the ability to communicate fully.

Voiceitt is now actively seeking around 100 potential users to participate in the testing of the Voiceitt beta application in early July 2017. Voiceitt is looking to work with Western New York nonprofit networks, institutional partners, researchers, hospital systems, and therapy providing services that work with individuals with speech disabilities. The participants must have a clinical diagnosis of dysarthria (unclear articulation of speech) and be able to use the app regularly during the 3-month beta testing period.

Voiceitt’s in-progress beta testing has already found positive quantitative results and positive qualitative feedback from users, as well as their family members, caregivers, and therapists.

“The $2 million that Voiceitt has recently raised is both a testament to the progress that our company has made and the promise of our technology to further give voice to people with speech disabilities,” said Voiceitt Founder and CEO Danny Weissberg. “We are excited to be at this stage of development and we hope that the Buffalo community will be very involved in testing our app.”

“43North applauds Voiceitt on their recent $2 million raise and now we call on our Western New York neighbors to help them test their app and move one step closer to improving the lives of people with speech disabilities,” said 43North Executive Director John Gavigan.

Organizations and users interested in signing up for Voiceitt’s beta testing can contact Katie Ehlers, Community Manager at Voiceitt, at [katie@voiceitt.com](mailto:katie@voiceitt.com) or (631) 774-2625. Research collaborators may contact Sara A Smolley, VP Strategy, at sara@voiceitt.com.

**About 43North**

*43North is the $5 million startup competition, awarding cash prizes to some of the best entrepreneurs and startups from around the world. 43North winners also receive free incubator space in Buffalo for one year, guidance from mentors in related fields, and access to other business incentive programs such as START-UP NY. 43North operates through the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Buffalo Billion initiative and grants from Empire State Development and the New York Power Authority. Additional support comes from National Grid and several other sponsors. For more information about 43North, visit* [*www.43north.org*](http://bit.ly/2nvDvaB)*.*

***Media Availability:***

* Katie Ehlers, Voiceitt’s Community Manager, is available to demo the app and speak with a television crew.
* A volunteer beta participant can be provided to demo the app and technology in real time.