# Lifeyear raises €2.8 million to fast-track NHS digital cardiac care amid soaring waiting lists



Lifeyear, a UK-Estonian healthtech start-up, has successfully raised €2.8 million to support the launch and expansion of its remote patient management platform aimed at delivering digital cardiovascular care at home. This funding comes at a critical time as cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevalence is expected to rise sharply, with UK cardiac waiting lists currently exceeding 418,000 people. Lifeyear's platform addresses these urgent healthcare challenges by enabling patients to receive personalised heart care remotely, reducing the need for face-to-face hospital visits and mitigating long wait times.

The funds will accelerate the deployment of Lifeyear’s digital cardiac care system across selected NHS hospitals, GP practices, and virtual wards within the UK. Using these deployments, the company plans to refine the technology and build real-world evidence of its clinical effectiveness, while ensuring full compliance with NHS standards such as the Digital Technology Assessment Criteria. This strategic approach aims to prepare the platform for wide-scale adoption within the UK's healthcare infrastructure.

Lifeyear benefits from a unique blend of clinical and technological expertise. Its co-founder and Chief Medical Officer, Dr Eleanor Wicks, brings over two decades of clinical experience from leading NHS trusts including Barts Health and Oxford University Hospitals. Alongside her, co-founders Siim Saare (CEO) and Timo Mitt (CTO) contribute a strong background in cutting-edge technology development from Estonia’s renowned digital health ecosystem. Lifeyear’s solution offers distinct advantages: it improves patient access to care with smartphone-enabled monitoring and facilitates clinicians' work by simplifying remote monitoring and medication management, thus allowing more focused care delivery.

The company’s recent funding round, which includes €1.5 million from the Estonian government in deep tech grants and €1.3 million from venture capital investors such as Verge HealthTech Fund and Tilia Impact Ventures, signals strong investor confidence in its potential to transform cardiovascular care within the NHS. Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has also become a shareholder in Lifeyear following the company’s participation in TheHill’s NHS Market Access Accelerator, a programme designed to support healthtech firms in navigating and scaling within NHS frameworks. Representatives from OUH have praised Lifeyear’s alignment with innovative, patient-centred care models and emphasised the value of NHS partnerships in driving healthtech success.

In the wider healthtech ecosystem, digital solutions for cardiovascular disease remain a key focus despite a notable decline in venture funding dedicated to the sector—from $3.8 billion in 2022 to $2.1 billion in 2023. Cardiovascular health technologies still represent one of the top five funded therapeutic areas within digital health, highlighting ongoing interest in innovations such as mobile applications, artificial intelligence, and remote monitoring devices to improve cardiac outcomes. This context underscores Lifeyear’s timely entrance into a vital area of healthcare innovation.

Other European startups like Madrid-based IDOVEN, which has recently raised €2 million to develop AI-powered cardiology diagnostics, reveal a competitive and fast-evolving healthtech landscape focusing on cardiovascular disease. Meanwhile, the UK government continues to bolster innovation through grant programmes such as Innovate UK’s Biomedical Catalyst and Smart Grants, which provide significant funding support for pioneering health and healthcare projects. Lifeyear’s intention to pursue further UK grant funding and seed investment rounds fits within this broader climate of governmental support.

Looking ahead, Lifeyear plans clinical pilots later this year at Oxford University Hospitals and in collaboration with Cardiomyopathy UK charity. This step will not only validate the platform’s clinical benefit but also enhance its integration within the NHS. As the UK government prepares its forthcoming 10-Year Health Plan, which emphasises increased digitalisation and efficiency in healthcare delivery, Lifeyear aims to establish itself as a key player in transforming cardiovascular care by deploying scalable, technology-driven solutions.

In sum, Lifeyear’s recent funding milestone marks a strategic advance positioned at the intersection of rising cardiovascular disease burden, increasing digital health adoption, and growing NHS demand for scalable remote care solutions. The start-up’s dual-national expertise, robust NHS partnerships, and clear focus on digital cardiovascular care differentiate it as a promising innovator seeking to reduce the global impact of heart disease through accessible, technology-enabled care.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.htworld.co.uk/news/digital-health/lifeyear-secures-e2-8m-to-accelerate-digital-cardiovascular-care-in-the-uk-sb25/), [[2]](https://lifeyear.com/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.htworld.co.uk/news/digital-health/lifeyear-secures-e2-8m-to-accelerate-digital-cardiovascular-care-in-the-uk-sb25/), [[2]](https://lifeyear.com/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.htworld.co.uk/news/digital-health/lifeyear-secures-e2-8m-to-accelerate-digital-cardiovascular-care-in-the-uk-sb25/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.htworld.co.uk/news/digital-health/lifeyear-secures-e2-8m-to-accelerate-digital-cardiovascular-care-in-the-uk-sb25/), [[2]](https://lifeyear.com/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.galengrowth.com/digital-health-a-new-front-line-in-the-fight-against-cardiovascular-diseases/), [[4]](https://www.idoven.ai/blog/idoven-the-remote-cardiology-startup-closes-a-eu-2-million-financing-round-with-wayra-accel-partners-enisa-and-top-level-business-angels-while-obtaining-eu-500-000-from-european-h2020-funds), [[5]](https://www.grantify.io/articles/healthtech-revolution-funding-the-next-generation-of-healthcare-innovation)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.htworld.co.uk/news/digital-health/lifeyear-secures-e2-8m-to-accelerate-digital-cardiovascular-care-in-the-uk-sb25/), [[2]](https://lifeyear.com/), [[5]](https://www.grantify.io/articles/healthtech-revolution-funding-the-next-generation-of-healthcare-innovation)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.htworld.co.uk/news/digital-health/lifeyear-secures-e2-8m-to-accelerate-digital-cardiovascular-care-in-the-uk-sb25/), [[2]](https://lifeyear.com/), [[3]](https://www.galengrowth.com/digital-health-a-new-front-line-in-the-fight-against-cardiovascular-diseases/), [[5]](https://www.grantify.io/articles/healthtech-revolution-funding-the-next-generation-of-healthcare-innovation)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.htworld.co.uk/news/digital-health/lifeyear-secures-e2-8m-to-accelerate-digital-cardiovascular-care-in-the-uk-sb25/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://lifeyear.com/> - Lifeyear is a UK-Estonian healthtech start-up that has developed a remote patient management platform for digital cardiovascular care. The platform aims to address the projected surge in cardiovascular disease prevalence and the UK's cardiac waiting lists, which exceed 418,000 people. By offering at-home digital care, Lifeyear seeks to improve patient outcomes and reduce the burden on healthcare systems. The company plans to roll out its platform across selected UK hospitals, GP practices, and virtual wards, focusing on generating real-world evidence and ensuring compliance with NHS standards.
3. <https://www.galengrowth.com/digital-health-a-new-front-line-in-the-fight-against-cardiovascular-diseases/> - This article discusses the role of digital health in combating cardiovascular diseases, highlighting the decline in venture funding for cardiovascular digital health ventures, which dropped 45% year-on-year to $2.1 billion in 2023 from $3.8 billion in 2022. Despite this decline, cardiovascular health remains one of the top five funded therapeutic areas within digital health, capturing 6% of the total venture capital funding in 2024. The article underscores the ongoing interest in digital solutions for cardiovascular health, particularly those leveraging mobile apps, artificial intelligence, and remote monitoring devices.
4. <https://www.idoven.ai/blog/idoven-the-remote-cardiology-startup-closes-a-eu-2-million-financing-round-with-wayra-accel-partners-enisa-and-top-level-business-angels-while-obtaining-eu-500-000-from-european-h2020-funds> - IDOVEN, a Madrid-based European HealthTech startup focused on preventing cardiac diseases, heart attacks, and sudden cardiac death, has raised €2 million in seed funding from Accel Partners, Wayra, ENISA, and top-level business angels, bringing its total funding to over €3 million. The company has also secured a €500,000 research grant as a partner in the MAESTRIA Consortium, a €14 million grant from Horizon 2020. IDOVEN aims to transform the cardiology industry by providing reliable and cost-effective expert-level diagnostics using deep learning algorithms, benefiting both patients and healthcare providers.
5. <https://www.grantify.io/articles/healthtech-revolution-funding-the-next-generation-of-healthcare-innovation> - This article explores the current landscape of healthtech innovation funding, highlighting the UK government's annual investment of hundreds of millions of pounds into the research and development of innovative businesses through Innovate UK. The Biomedical Catalyst programme offers grants of up to £2 million for projects with innovative solutions to health and healthcare challenges. The UK Smart Grants programme, the government's flagship innovation programme, offers grants of up to £2 million for game-changing ideas with the potential for rapid commercialisation, with healthtech being an eligible industry.
6. <https://www.digitalhealth.net/2024/07/pitchfest-finalist-healthtech-1-raises-2-7m-in-seed-funding/> - Healthtech-1, a startup that automates administrative tasks in primary care, has raised £2.7 million in a seed funding round led by London-based VC Moonfire and Silicon Valley accelerator Y Combinator. The company's solution is currently live in 721 GP practices in England, up from just 10 in May 2022. The team aims to be live in more than 90% of the market by the end of 2025. The funding will support the expansion and development of their technology to streamline administrative processes in healthcare systems.
7. <https://tech.eu/2025/04/14/health-startups-spur-uk-vc-growth-in-q1/> - In the first quarter of 2025, UK health and life sciences startups raised $1.8 billion in venture capital investment, more than double the amount of the second-placed sector. This surge was driven by significant funding rounds, including Isomorphic Labs' $600 million raise and Verdiva Bio's $411 million round. Nearly half of all VC investment in health and life sciences went to AI-powered startups, underscoring the growing influence of technology in healthcare innovation. Overall, UK startups raised $4.2 billion in the quarter, marking an eight per cent year-on-year increase and the highest Q1 funding since 2022.