Ekso Bionics helps people back on their feet

Ekso Bionics is a global pioneer in the manufacture of robotic exoskeletons. The EksoNR is used in medical rehabilitation. With its help, people with spinal cord injuries, or people who have had a stroke or suffered a traumatic brain injury, can learn to stand and walk again. Every year, nearly 2,000 people in Germany become paraplegic\(^1\) and around 270,000 people suffer a stroke\(^2\).

Ekso Bionics was founded in 2005 in collaboration with the Berkeley Robotics and Human Engineering Laboratory of the University of California, Berkeley. The company’s headquarters are located in Richmond, California, USA. Its first innovations were exoskeletons allowing people to lift loads of up to 90 kg. The company supplies the industry and healthcare sectors. In 2010, it presented its first exoskeleton for patients with paralysis of the lower extremities. Initially known as eLegs, it was developed into the EksoNR. Ekso Bionics aims to boost human strength, stamina and mobility, thus improving the lives of millions of people.

Ekso Bionics has almost 60 patents and its first exoskeleton, eLegs, was crowned one of the top 50 best inventions of the 2010 by Time Magazine.

The European headquarters of Ekso Bionics were opened in 2015. Based in Hamburg, 13 members of staff manage the EMEA market. The company is constantly increasing the number of partners using the EksoNR in treatment.

Worldwide, Ekso Bionics works together with more than 270 rehabilitation clinics and hospitals. In a two-phase training programme, the clinic staff are trained as Ekso-certified therapists in order to provide comprehensive support to the patient during training. The company supports the institutions in carrying out scientific studies and uses the resulting data to optimise the EksoNR.

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1 Deutsche Stiftung Querschnittlähmung (DSQ): http://www.dsq.de/index.php/2012-03-05-13-36-08/faq-s
2 Federal Health Monitoring System: Gesundheit in Deutschland; Robert-Koch-Institut, 2015, p. 44.