Press kit

As of January 2026

Navel Robotics GmbH is a Munich-based start-up specializing in the development of empathetic, social robots. Founded in 2017, the company aims to make artificial intelligence and robotics intuitively accessible to everyone – especially for applications in the field of social work: social robots for social work.

1. Company profile / About us

Name: navel robotics GmbH

Founded: June 2017

Headquarters: Agnes-Pockels-Bogen 1, 80992 Munich

Team size: 15 employees

Vision/Mission: robotic beings you want to be with

2. Founders & Management

Claude Toussaint (CEO) – Founder. Former managing partner of the international consulting agency designaffairs. 20 years of experience in user experience design, product strategy, and management consulting for global corporations.

Alexandre Colucci (CTO) – Over 19 years of experience in development and production in various verticals, B2B & B2C, with deep software expertise, entrepreneurship, leadership, and internationalization.

Philipp Schwarz (COO) – Over 7 years of experience in product and process development, physics, software engineering, and design in the field of technology startups.

Nelson Jung (Head of Operations & Finance) – Over 5 years of experience in M&A, entrepreneurship, people & organization, operations, project management

3. Product: Navel – the empathy robot

Key features of Navel

- **Positive effects:** on well-being, joy, and cognitive abilities
- **Very high acceptance:** 2- to 95-year-olds, people who are not tech-savvy
- **Intuitive, human-like interaction:** Simple natural language interaction, eye contact, lively facial expressions, recognition of facial expressions.
- **Empathetic responses:** responds empathetically to comments and moods.
- **Flexible dialogue:** addresses users personally by name, remembers previous individual conversations, engages in technical discussions about hobbies and work, recites poems and jokes, and tells stories.
- **Regular software updates:** New features every 6-8 weeks

Technical information

Feature	Details
Artificial intelligence	Over a dozen different AI modules support perception and generate Navel's lively, empathetic behavior.
Computing	10 times the computing power of comparable models, NVIDIA Edge Device (real-time processing)
3D eyes	Unique solution that allows Navel to show facial expressions and make eye contact
Software	Proprietary software solution based on C and Python for high-performance, stable, and secure operation
GDPR & Security	Data protection compliant, CE marking
Dimensions & weight	75 cm high, 8.5 kg
Easy	Suitable for all age groups; configurable via browser
Made in Germany	

Product variants & prices

Model	Target	Special features
Navel Care	Care facilities	Care application, training, updates
Navel Research	Research facilities	Python SDK, without care app

Delivery time: 10–14 weeks

4. Areas of application & use cases

Care facilities: Since October 2023 in German care facilities such as inpatient care for the elderly, day care, residential care homes, nursing homes, geriatric care, and integration assistance. Navel activates and accompanies people, increases well-being and cognitive abilities, especially in dementia patients. Studies show improvement in mood and relief for nursing staff.

Research institutions: Since 2022, universities across Europe (e.g., TU Munich, MHH) have been using Navel to research human-robot interaction with a full Python SDK and demo interfaces. Platform for new methods of social human-robot interaction.

5. Studies on Navel

MHH Hannover Medical School: Navel has positive effects on the cognitive abilities of nursing home residents with dementia

Institute for Nursing and Aging of the Evangelische Heimstiftung: Navel improves the well-being of nursing home residents and creates a positive atmosphere

TUM Technical University of Munich: Even after 6 months, nursing home residents still enjoy talking to Navel because Navel remembers the conversations and thus builds a personal relationship.

6. Current developments and milestones

Latest innovations

- By integrating Perplexity, Navel can access current data on the internet
- Improved facial recognition allows Navel to recognize the user
- Navel actively turns and move towards the user the user

In planning

- Navel can play music
- Navel is multilingual
- Navel drives proactively

7. Key facts

Employees: 15 (2025)

Financing: through funding projects and business angels

Robots delivered: 100

Awards & prizes: Winner of the Digital Health Award (Novartis, €25,000) for innovative AI-supported robotics for nursing care

8. Media reports & awards

Digital Health Award 2024 – 1st place for Navel as an innovative care robot

Media coverage: ZEIT, Spiegel, Bild, Manager Magazin, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Human Resources, Merkur, Altenpflege, VDI Nachrichten, etc.

Media contributions: ARD, ZDF, Bayerisches Fernsehen, BR2, Deutschlandfunk

9. What people are saying about Navel

"If you want to work with social robots today, you work with the robot with the cute woolly hat, Navel." (Bernhard Seidenath, Chairman of the Health and Care Working Group of the CSU parliamentary group in the German Bundestag)

"The friendly robot is very well received by the residents and offers new opportunities for social interaction with them." (Monika Steilen- CCO Korian Germany)

"Navel is a next-generation social robot that stands out for its lifelike social skills." (Marc Theermann, CSO at Boston Dynamics)

"We use Navel primarily to improve people's quality of life." (Dr. Judith Schoch, Head of the Institute for Care and Aging, Evangelische Heimstiftung)

"Claude Toussaint and his team have big plans for their social robot, and we at Rummelsberger Diakonie are convinced of that. Navel has unique social skills that are also well received by our residents, customers, and employees." (Dr. Tobias Gaydoul- Member of the Executive Board (CFO) Diakonie Rummelsberger)

8. Contact for press inquiries

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