

Technology

Digital health start-up Doctolib raises €150m at a €1bn+ valuation

French online medical appointment management service cements its 'unicorn' status



Stanislas Niox-Chateau, Ivan Schneider and Jessy Bernal, co-founders of Doctolib © Doctolib

Harriet Agnew in Paris 8 HOURS AGO

Doctolib, the largest digital health service in Europe, has raised €150m in a funding round led by growth equity firm General Atlantic, which values the start-up at over €1bn and is the biggest e-health investment in a decade, according to Crunchbase.

The fundraising also represents largest round raised by a French tech company since mobile games publisher Voodoo received a \$200m investment from Goldman Sachs in May last year. It follows a [record year](#) for French tech, in which the industry raised \$3.5bn in total funding, up 8 per cent on the previous year.

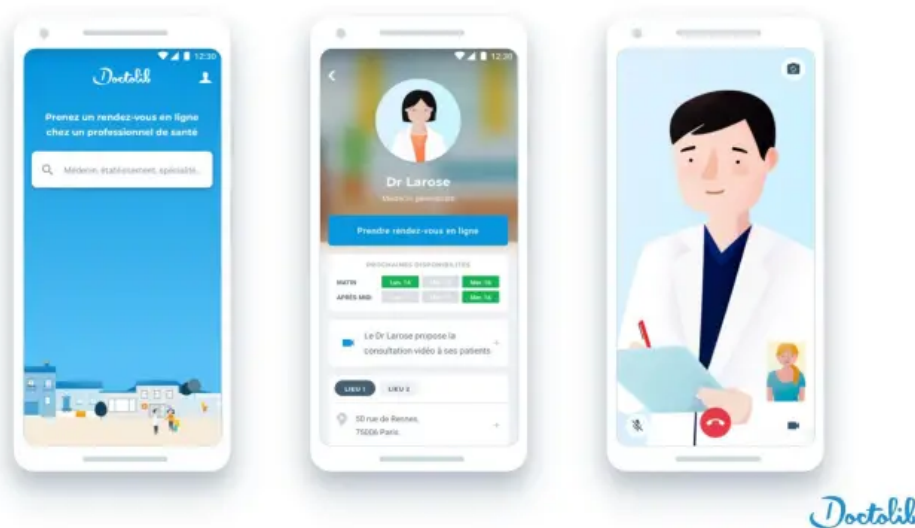
Doctolib is an online medical appointment management service linking patients and healthcare

Doctolib is an online medical appointment management service linking patients and healthcare professionals, who pay a monthly subscription fee to use its software. It was launched in Paris five years ago, and currently employs 750 people across 40 offices in France and Germany. It receives 30m online visits from patients each month.

In January, Doctolib launched a new service that allows doctors to carry out video consultations with their patients, and then send them a digital prescription and bill online automatically after the consultation. It will use the latest investment to launch the video consultation service to its community of 75,000 physicians and 1,400 healthcare facilities across France and Germany.

“Doctors and hospitals are at the heart of the transformation of healthcare,” said Doctolib co-founder and chief executive Stanislas Niox-Chateau. “We want to transform the efficiency and profitability of their medical practices and help them to attract new patients.

“The challenges in healthcare are so big that we need a long-term plan and a long-term investor,” he added. “This fundraising is linked to that.”



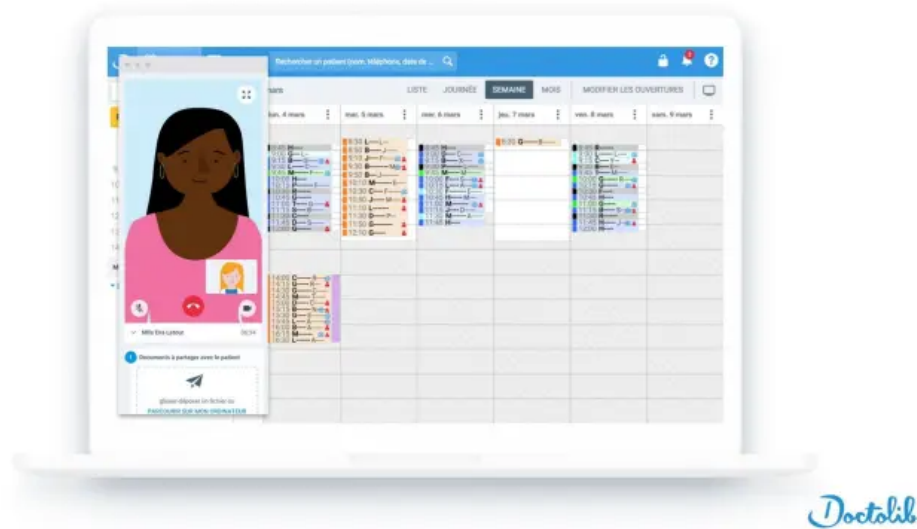
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Doctolib's existing investors, including venture capital firms Accel, [Eurazeo](#), Kernel and Bpifrance, took part in the latest funding round, as did several German healthcare entrepreneurs.

The company said it would use the investment in four areas:

- it wants to double its staff, to 1,500 people, in three years;
- grow its video consultation service;
- develop new products;
- and expand further internationally.

Doctolib says to date it has signed physicians representing 15 per cent of the French market and 1 per cent of the German market.



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Chris Caulkin, managing director and head of technology for Emea at General Atlantic, which has \$31bn under management, said: “Doctolib delights consumers through the platform’s ability to show availability, and book and cancel appointments, and for the doctors it improves their efficiency and cuts down on no-shows and cancellations.”

He added: “What’s really exciting for us as an investor is the additional products and services that can be launched.”

Doctolib is part of a growing market for digital health. Last June Swedish tele-health start-up Kry, which facilitates video calls to doctors or psychologists, raised \$66m from investors. In April 2017 Babylon, a UK start-up that offers [a digital healthcare app](#) using a mixture of artificial intelligence and video and text consultations with doctors and specialists, secured \$60m in new funding.

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Doctolib is General Atlantic’s fourth investment in France in the past two years. The firm grew out of the family office of Charles Feeney, the billionaire co-founder of Duty Free Shoppers, and has also bought stakes in ManoMano, an online DIY and home improvements platform; Sézane, a [clothing and lifestyle brand](#), and OpenClassrooms, an online educational platform.

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