

**Sectors:** Industry / Health / Society

## **CORONAVIRUS: SPHERE NEDERLAND TO THE RESCUE OF DUTCH HOSPITALS WITH THE PRODUCTION OF 325,000 GOWNS FOR HEALTHCARE STAFF.**

The Hardenberg-based packaging manufacturer SPHERE NEDERLAND, a subsidiary of the French SPHERE Group, quickly developed plastic gowns for hospital care staff. Although the Dutch healthcare system is one of the best in Europe, it is suffering from a shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) due to the Covid-19 health crisis. The SPHERE group, the European leader in household packaging, with 15 production sites in Europe, has undertaken to reorganise part of its production to help hospitals to be able to supply them with gowns and protective sleeves.

The SPHERE group currently manufactures and distributes in France more than 10 million gowns and 20 million protective sleeves for French hospitals. Thanks to the synergy of the group, SPHERE NEDERLAND has been able to produce a model of gowns in a few days in order to produce 325,000 polyethylene gowns per week. Deliveries will start mid-April in the Netherlands and France.

All SPHERE NEDERLAND employees immediately mobilised to support this solidarity action and to take over this additional production. Indeed, SPHERE NEDERLAND continues to produce and distribute to its customers in the retail sector with the KOMO and PROPSAC ranges, to municipalities with the bio-compostable bags for organic waste collection and to hospitals with the infectious waste collection bags for which SPHERE NEDERLAND has been working closely for several years.

*"We are proud to join forces and resources in a unique solidarity action with all the subsidiaries of the SPHERE group",* says Gerwin Nauta, Managing Director of SPHERE NEDERLAND.

### **About SPHERE**

Founded in 1976 in France, SPHERE is a French family group. It is the leading European company for household packaging and a producer of bio-compostable resins.

SPHERE manufactures, markets and distributes ranges of innovative environment-friendly products for the general public, professional users and local authorities, mainly in Western Europe, including refuse bags, fruit and vegetable bags, freezer bags, cooking bags, reusable bags and shopping bags, films and paper for use in food contact, aluminium trays and foil, disposable and take-out tableware, etc.

SPHERE's development strategy is to:

- Reduce the volume of virgin plastic materials used in its products and replace them with recycled materials;
- Develop new biodegradable and compostable materials;
- Use biobased raw materials.

With 15 production sites in Europe, eight of which are in France, and annual production of 150 000 tonnes of bags, SPHERE in 2019 recorded turnover of 580 million euros and had 1,450 employees.

SPHERE NEDERLAND achieved a turnover of 31 million euros in 2019 with 81 employees.

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