



Sectors: Industry / Health / Society

**CORONAVIRUS: SPHERE GROUP TO HOSPITALS' RESCUE
AS IT PRODUCES 10 MILLION GOWNS AND PROTECTIVE SLEEVES MADE IN FRANCE**

The French group SPHERE, European leader in household packaging, with eight production sites in France, has engaged to help French hospitals by re-allocating part of its production. The first deliveries of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)- gowns and protective sleeves - are expected to reach several university hospitals in France by the end of the week.

High production capacity: 10 million gowns and protective sleeves.

SPHERE, which a few years ago relocated part of its production to France, will help alleviate some of the major shortages currently experienced by hospitals, which have been sourcing primarily in the Far East.

SPHERE Group, already a partner to hospitals for 15 years, will set aside a complete 7/7 cycle to produce **unique polyethylene gowns and protective sleeves, validated by several teams of engineers from different hospital complexes and consortia.**

The Group is mobilising production facilities with its subsidiaries in France: JET'SAC (Hauts de France), PTL (Normandie), J&M PLAST (Haute-Loire) and SCHWEITZER (Nancy and Grand Est) to supply the institutions. With weekly production of 1.5 million gowns and protective sleeves over the next two weeks, production will then be ramped up, to reach a rate of **10 million gowns per month.**

"I would like to thank all the Group's employees for their solidarity and volunteer commitment. Each day, they make it possible for us to keep up the flawless production needed for all our customers and end-users", said John Persenda, President and CEO.

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.

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