



PRESS RELEASE - APRIL 7, 2020

# ECONOMIC ACTORS IN THE AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES REGION ENGAGING IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO PRODUCE A REUSABLE PROTECTIVE MASK

**BY THE END OF JUNE, ITS PRODUCTION WILL BE EQUIVALENT TO 500 MILLION CURRENT DISPOSABLE MASKS**

Since March, 16, when it was founded under the impetus and coordination of the Grenoble collective VOCCOV, a collaborative environment works to design and deploy on a large scale a reusable mask.

Called "OCOVR®", fully developed and produced in a short time record in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, this mask is economical, durable and can be manufactured in large quantities.

Unlike a P1 or P2 FF (Face Filter) filter consisting solely of a filter material, "OCOVR® is a P1 or P2 FM (Face Mask) mask that includes a soft face piece covering the nose, mouth and chin, together with replaceable and reusable filters. The leakage rate required by the FM standard is 5 times lower than the FF standard (2% for FM and 8% for FF filters). The soft facial piece hugs the face shape and therefore minimizes the leakage rate compared to FFP1 or FFP2 filters or other washable masks. It ensures a good airtightness between the ambient atmosphere and the wearer's face (whether his skin is dry or wet and when he moves the head). It also brings excellent long term comfort. Reusable up to 100 times thanks to its five washable and interchangeable filters, its cost is very competitive.

To implement this project, the Grenoble CEA has made available its infrastructure and research and testing. Based on its know-how that has allowed the very rapid realization of a first prototype, the teams of Michelin and CEA were very quickly mobilized as well as those of other regional industrial partners. This reactivity has led to the industrialization of the mask in less than three weeks. Ouvry, a Lyon-based SME specialized in biological and chemical protection equipment, was chosen to ensure the industrialization and marketing of the mask.

A pre-production of 5,000 units of this first version is now being manufactured. The production capacity target is 1 million masks per week in May, i.e. a production exceeding 5 million by the end of June (the equivalent of 500 million current disposable masks). 130,000 masks are already reserved today. Michelin will offer part of the masks ordered to the Regional Health Agencies.



1 An ecosystem composed of the CEA, of large companies such as Michelin, ARaymond, Schneider, SMEs such as Ouvry, APA, Sofileta but also institutions and local authorities such as the town hall of Grenoble, the Auvergne Rhône Alpes region, the Regional Health Agency, the GA University Hospital, the prefecture of Isère, the Ordre des Médecins and the Société Française de Médecine de Catastrophe, have joined forces, under the impetus and coordination of the Grenoble collective VOC-COV.

2 Each mask comes with 5 filters usable about 20 times each.

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