



Consortium starts with the production of high-quality respirators for the healthcare sector, 100% Made in Belgium

Turnhout, June 9, 2020 – This August, Medimundi start the production of FFP2 and FFP3 respirators. Medimundi is a spin-off company of Cartamundi and Antwerp University. The Medimundi consortium, together with machine builder Cloostermans and a private investor, will develop, manufacture, market and sell high-quality respirators. Cartamundi holds the operational lead in the new company. The respirators provide the highest possible protection for the wearer and are predominantly intended for healthcare staff. Medimundi provides a *100% Made in Belgium* solution for the shortages of high-quality respirators. The consortium made a combined starting investment of approximately €3.5m and plans to continue to invest in innovation, international expansion and a broader product portfolio.

Medimundi takes an important step for society

Medimundi will manufacture high-quality FFP2 and FFP3 respirators. David Germis, CEO of Medimundi confirms: “Together we take an important step for society. There is a significant shortage of these respirators in the healthcare sector. This type of respirator provides the highest possible protection for the wearer against pathogens such as bacteria and viruses, but also against carcinogenic substances. Respirators are indispensable for the healthcare workers who are at the frontline in the fight against the Covid-19 virus. The newly developed respirators will hold the European quality certificate, this is a standard to which only 20% of the imported respirators comply with.” **Rudy Mattheus** Chairman of the Board of Medimundi adds: “This is a perfect example of valorization and co-creation, built on family-owned entrepreneurship. Together we are committed to quality, creativity and sustainability. This results in high-quality respirators that offer a unique comfort to the wearer.”

Unique Belgian consortium unites scientists, engineers, manufacturers and investors.

The new Medimundi can rely and build on the experience and the supply chain of Cartamundi. The game maker from Turnhout provides know-how for the purchase of raw materials, the manufacturing, packaging and distribution of the respirators.

Starting this August, the FFP2 and FFP3 respirators will run from the production lines in Turnhout. These are intended for Belgium as well as for other countries. The network of Cartamundi facilities around the globe provides an ideal starting point internationally.

“We also have a societal role and we can only be successful if we are also relevant for society. This became clear again also during the recent lockdowns. We have seen numerous local initiatives from our staff all over the world, supporting public health and attempting to



alleviate the most urgent needs”, comments **Stefaan Merckx**, CEO of Cartamundi. “We gladly put our full support behind this initiative. It is a part of our DNA and perfectly connects with our strategy of sustainable growth.”

Researchers from the Department of Product Development at the Antwerp University have designed the Medimundi respirators using innovative and protected technology. These respirators stand out because of the added comfort they provide for the wearer as they are completely aligned with our anatomy. In particular, the innovative filter and valve technology ease the breathing, for the wearer.

“From a model of sustainable cooperation, we turn research and development into innovation”, comments prof. **Silvia Lenaerts**, Vice-rector valorization at the Antwerp University. “Our product developers hold unique design competencies that we can valorize with the foundation of Medimundi. In combination with two unique family-owned businesses, the University creates a clear added value for society. We are very proud to be able to start with this complementary team, and we look forward to working together.”

Machine builder Cloostermans from Hamme develops and builds the exclusive machine that will produce the respirators. And the engineering partner is up to its task: The family owned business specializes in the production of tailor-made industrial machines. From our strength, *connecting humans and technology to shape the future*, we want to contribute to society in the fight against challenges of this new normal,” comments **Hilde Cloostermans-Huwaert**, Chair of Cloostermans and together with her husband Philip Corens, shareholder at Medimundi.

About Cartamundi

Cartamundi is Latin for “Cards for the World.” With a history dating back to 1765, Cartamundi is the world’s leading manufacturer of card & board games and digital solutions. With a network of owned sales offices, 12 state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities, and a workforce of over 2,500 people, Cartamundi is a prominent and growing supplier to the global cards, games, and toys industry. In 2019, Cartamundi generated a revenue of approximately \$425 million.

With its strong brands such as Color Addict®, Shuffle®, COPAG®, and Grimaud®, Cartamundi created a compelling range of playing cards, children’s card games, and family games. These products can be found in major retailers across the globe, contributing to fulfilling the Cartamundi purpose of “Sharing the Magic of Playing Together.”



Cartamundi's corporate headquarters are in Turnhout, Belgium. Manufacturing facilities are located in Japan, India, Poland, Germany, France, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Ireland, United States of America and Brazil.

Meer informatie www.cartamundi.com

About Cloostermans

Cloostermans, 6th generation family owned and founded in 1884, is specialized in the development and building of machines, ranging from prototype to large roll-outs. The company offers innovative turn-key solutions and delivers value to its customers through an integrated approach of mechatronics, production, assembly, implementation and testing, in an innovative ecosystem. Cloostermans exclusively supplies one single customer in every market segment, in a way that brings a competitive advantage to its customers. The company is located in Hamme, centrally located between Brussels, Antwerp and Ghent, and employs of 250 people.

Meer informatie: www.cloostermans.com

About the University of Antwerp

The University of Antwerp is a research university where pioneering, innovative research is conducted at an international level. Research and education are closely linked. Educational innovation is a constant focus, and special care is also taken to welcome and guide each of the 20,000 students spread across our nine faculties.

The University of Antwerp is not an island: we build bridges to secondary education, to industry and, by extension, to society as a whole. With over 6,000 members of staff, the University of Antwerp is one of the most important employers in Antwerp, Flanders' largest city.

More information: www.uantwerp.be

Voor more information

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