

Startup develops multi-use face shields to decrease environmental impact of PPE

In response to global supply shortages of PPE, startup Shield48 has developed multi-use face shields per day that ship anywhere in Europe within 48 hours.

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- In response to global supply shortages of PPE (personal protective equipment), startup [Shield48](#) has developed a decentralized supply chain that can manufacture over 20,000 multi-use face shields per day, and ship anywhere in Europe within 48 hours. Moreover, in contrast to most face shields that are single-use, Shield48 is reusable up to 300 times.

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has led to a surge of single-use plastic waste, starting from PPE to individually-packaged foods. By inventing multi-use face shields, not only does it significantly reduce plastic waste, but also relieves strain on supply chains.

“According to market data, the demand for face shields has increased more than 300 times, and this demand will only continue in the “New Normal”. Manufacturing single-use face shields and throwing tens of millions of them away every day worldwide is unsustainable. There is a better way to protect medical personnel and manufacture smart – by focusing on reusable face shields. That can save more than 70% of today’s expenses and reduce waste by millions of tons of plastic.” - Didzis Dejus, Founder of Shield48



Protective, multi-use face shields by Shield48



Shield48 is used by both public and medical sectors

Face shields are a plastic barrier that covers the face from the forehead to below the chin. Through providing wider coverage, it makes them a superior coverage option to cloth face masks alone, vital to continue day-to-day work for medical professionals, including GPs and dentists. They are also used by the private sector with personnel that requires interpersonal contact, such as cashiers, delivery people, factory workers, and agricultural employees.



The Shield48 team

Shield48 is a startup based in Latvia that grew out of a hackathon designed to meet the challenges created by the COVID-19 virus. Within the hackathon's allotted 48 hours, the team developed a multi-use face shield prototype and validated it with the country's leading epidemiologists.

By the end of the hackathon, Shield48 had an order for 10,000 face shields for medical professionals from the state to be fulfilled within 10 days. With support from various state institutions aiding in removing obstacles, from funding to diplomatic solutions for obtaining raw materials, the startup was able to not only fulfill the 10-day order, but is also now situated to manufacture 20,000+ face shields per day. These face shields, in turn, can be delivered anywhere in Europe within 48 hours.

This crisis demonstrated more clearly than ever that Latvia has to seriously think about manufacturing PPE locally, to reduce dependency on external manufacturers, but also to ensure the required quality. Shield48 face masks are a COVID-19 pandemic success story, as the development and testing was done along with epidemiologists and doctors, including general practitioners. The face masks are lightweight, repeatedly disinfected, and thanks to the removable face screens, they'll be in use in the future as well. - Ilze Aizsilniece, President of the Latvian Medical Association

The Shield48 team is made up of the team working at Baltic3D, a company with the largest 3D printing infrastructure in the Baltics. The team applied to the HackForce hackathon to understand how they can best put their knowledge and resources to good use during the COVID-19 crisis. Shields can be requested on the Shield48 website.

For more information on the Shield48 face masks and to make a request for an order, visit the Shield48 website.

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