

GERMAN INDUSTRY UK

THE VOICE OF GERMAN BUSINESS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



STATEMENT COVID-19

German Business in the UK Our contribution to the NHS, care homes and vulnerable people

Our thoughts are with those affected and the people who look after them in hospitals, care homes and in their own homes. Whilst lost for words in the face of this viral pandemic, with so many people suffering, we are nevertheless able to do something to help, despite the many challenges we face in business at the moment. With 2,500 companies, employing some 400,000 British people, we are very much part of the UK and the welfare of the British people is our concern too.

There follows accounts of some German companies that we know of:
(there may be many more)

AIRBUS (part German) in Broughton, Filton, Newport, Oxford, Portsmouth and Stevenage has acted decisively and responsibly to harness its products, services and employee's unique skills and capabilities to support efforts in the fight against COVID-19, working in close partnership with Government and health care providers. The teams at **Airbus Helicopters** in Oxford have been working around the clock to maintain and keep flying the UK's emergency services helicopters for the police and air ambulance fleets

Airbus engineers have been working closely with teams in the RAF to maintain the Royal Airforce's A400M Atlas aircraft and maximise availability for critical tasks. These aircrafts, as a national standby capability, have been used to fly critically ill patients from the Shetland and Orkney Islands, off the coast of Scotland, where there are serious outbreaks of COVID-19 with limited health facilities, to intensive care units in Aberdeen and Glasgow.

Teams from **Airbus Defence and Space** have worked in partnership with the MoD to agree business continuity plans for programmes of national importance. This includes the Skynet programme which delivers vital military satellite communications to the MoD in support of military operations.

Also, Airbus is part of **Ventilator Challenge UK**, a consortium of significant UK industrial, technology and engineering businesses from across the aerospace, automotive and medical sectors, which have come together to produce in excess of 10,000 medical ventilators for the UK, based on existing designs by Penlon and Smiths Medical. To put this into context, Penlon and Smiths ordinarily have combined capacity for between 50 and 60 ventilators per week. However, thanks to the scale and resources, the wider consortium is targeting production of at least 1,500 units per week.

To date Airbus has transported and donated almost 1.5 million protective masks to the NHS to support front-line workers, with more masks being delivered in the coming weeks .

Airbus has also helped facilitate the procurement of more than 300 ventilators for the Department of Health & Social Care from China.

Employees at Airbus Defence and Space are producing tens of thousands of visors to support health services local to Portsmouth and wider NHS across the UK.

Airbus has donated a substantial amount of food and cleaning products to a charity helping deliver food to isolated and vulnerable people within the Flintshire area in North Wales.

Airbus Defence and Space has doubled the welfare Wi-Fi X-Band bandwidth available for use on Royal Navy ships, free of charge, enabling ships companies to stay in touch via video with their families and loved ones.

Airbus has also taken steps to provide fun and interactive resources through its online digital platform, the 'Discovery Space', which aims to inspire children in STEM. It has introduced a 'Discover at Home' series, designed to assist in home schooling efforts, providing free and unlimited access to parents, educators and children, along with useful toolkits and online design activities.

ANT Telecommunications in Bourne End

are offering their automated hosted welfare check solution completely free, this is to help companies with their duty of care. Many companies have implemented manual check calls to their home and lone workers and their system can do that automatically.

BASF in Cheadle

working with partner 2M Group, BASF has donated 5 tonnes of hand sanitiser for use in North East England, care homes, local councils, the NHS and schools, including 50 litres to Cullercoats Primary School, near Whitley Bay.

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Bayer in Reading

are using their expertise to support the fight against Coronavirus by supporting Government, health authorities and communities with urgently needed medicines, supplies and financial support. Maintaining a supply of Bayer products and services to hospitals, doctors, patients, consumers and farmers is a top priority.

Bentley Motors in Crewe

has extended its 'Be Safe' health and safety programme to look after the local community in Cheshire. The company is focusing on using its specialists skills to 3D print over 30,000 face-shields in their factory and supply them to the Cheshire care sector, including all 95 care homes, the NHS and other local community services. Simultaneously, Bentley is donating PPE, such as 20,000 pairs of disposable gloves, 10,000 facemasks, 40 safety glasses and 1,800 seat covers and also extending the Bentley 'Meals on 22inch Wheels' service, where colleagues volunteer to deliver essential items in the community.

BMW Group in Oxford, Swindon, Hams Hall and Farnborough

has lent a fleet of 80 BMWs and MINIs to NHS Trusts and key workers across the country. They have been used over a wide range of duties, from simple transport to hospitals for nurses and doctors who would normally use public transport, to the delivery of essential items to medical facilities and the homes of people who are being shielded. In addition, masks and gloves have been provided to a number of health trusts.

Boehringer Ingelheim in Bracknell

is working via the ABPI to assist the NHS, by supporting local pharmacies to deliver essential medicines to vulnerable people within their local communities. This has seen members of their field force kindly volunteer to provide this vital service during the lockdown period.

They have also ensured that their manufacturing facility in Pirbright continues to function as normal, ensuring the continuity of supply for vital veterinary public health vaccinations needed.

BI is supporting its charity partners, the Children's Society, which offers support to disadvantaged children. This crisis has trapped many vulnerable children at home, hidden from view and isolated from the usual support systems. BI contributed to the charity's emergency fundraising appeal to provide additional support to the thousands of children whose lives have been disrupted. Additionally, BI has made an immediate impact donation to the Berkshire Community Foundation. The funds will be used to help small charities respond to the emerging needs of the crisis within their local areas. It will provide vital funds to help them increase efforts of support to the elderly and the most disadvantaged families, who may be disproportionately affected by the virus outbreak. BI has also offered all of its employees the opportunity to take up to 10 days of paid leave to join COVID-19 relief efforts within the NHS and local communities. Employees who were unable to perform their work from site or from home, were given the opportunity to volunteer for longer while still being paid their regular salaries.

B/S/H Home Appliances in Milton Keynes

has supported 26 NHS Trusts across the country by donating Tassimo machines and coffee pods. Over 100 Tassimos have been sent out, with a selection of coffee pods, to be used in staff rest areas in the newly-built intensive care wards which have been set up to help fight the Coronavirus outbreak.

DHL in Colnbrook and Milton Keynes

DHL Express has, on 17 April, flown in 100,000 medical isolation full face shields from China to the East Midland's airport to support the crowdfunder campaign 'Masks for NHS Heroes'. The full face shields, which will help protect frontline NHS workers and patients, are being distributed by DHL Supply Chain to 100 locations in urgent need, including care homes, hospices, hospitals, trusts and GPs surgeries.

DHL Supply Chain joined **Ventilator Challenge UK** on 7 April to deliver at least 10,000 new ventilators to the NHS.

DHL will manage the inbound supply chain for two workstreams of Ventilator Challenge UK, which is ramping up manufacturing of existing, approved ventilator designs. The challenge is to create a supply chain from scratch to handle 3.2 million parts. The operation will include the collection of parts from a new supplier base, as well as handling, storage, order pick and kitting, and delivery to final manufacturing locations. Separately, the company will support Dyson on final distribution of its new ventilator model.

Efaflex in Telford

donated PPE to their local NHS ambulance personnel. They gave a cash donation to Wolverhampton University of Engineering who are 3D printing and distributing face masks free of charge to the NHS and care homes. Also, providing free of charge, response/attendance to various customers in the essential sectors during lockdown in pharma/medical manufactures/logistics providers.

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Kärcher in Banbury

has supplied floorcare machines for cleaning the Nightingale hospitals and are providing manpower and resources to Team Rubicon.

Linde Material Handling in Basingstoke

has been providing equipment on short notice for the NHS supply chain operations and Nightingale Hospitals and keeping their warehouses running, also, for the distribution of PPE and medical supplies. They have also supplied a new truck to the St Thomas Hospital in London.

Mercedes F1 in Brackley

is part of the **Ventilator Challenge UK Consortium** building 10,000 ventilators for hospitals and face masks for the NHS under the codenames of Project Oyster and Project Penguin. Mercedes has also, together with University College London, developed the first 'continuous positive airway pressure' device that can keep Coronavirus patients out of intensive care, 100 of which are now going into clinical trials at a hospital in north London.

Miele in Abingdon

has, from day one of the crisis, prioritised their most vulnerable customers to ensure that they continue the support they require. Their customers include numerous NHS facilities, labs involved in testing and many care homes. They supplied equipment to some of the new NHS Nightingale sites and donated a dishwasher to the maternity wing of the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

Noerr in London

made a cash donation of £1,600 to NHS Charities Together.

Rolls Royce Motors in Goodwood

has provided its unused fleet of 30 limousines, including the latest Phantom, to provide grocery and medication deliveries to the vulnerable. Priority for deliveries is being given to local charities and to the NHS services with which Rolls Royce already has partnerships.

Siemens in Frimley, Congleton and Sudbury

Siemens UK and Siemens Healthineers are part of the **Ventilator Challenge UK Consortium**. Siemens Healthineers has vital expertise in manufacturing medical devices in the UK and Siemens Digital Industries has expertise in making manufacturing processes more efficient and highly productive. Together these parts of the company are combining their efforts to contribute to Ventilator Challenge UK. Siemens does not manufacture ventilator products itself but is providing expert assistance to the consortium in medical device manufacture under the standards to MHRA guidelines, mainly through the team at Siemens Healthineers facility in Sudbury. This is being carried out in addition to, and without disruption to, existing demand for blood gas analyser products which are massively in demand and a critical part of the fight against COVID-19. Siemens Healthineers is advising the Ventilator Challenge coalition on post final assembly testing and has valuable programme management experience in the UK healthcare environment, helping to ensure strict regulation requirements are factored in from the start and that vital time is not lost in the highly accelerated production process.

Siemens Industry Software has enabled the consortium to rapidly distribute bills of materials, quality work aids and to design, simulate and test the scaled-up manufacturing locations. Engineers from across Siemens UK have been working to capture product and production models, simulate scaled manufacture and provide assembly workers with digital aids for sub-assemblies.

The collaboration at Siemens went further as colleagues from the gas turbine manufacturing and service plants in Lincoln took on the challenge to quickly convert complex drawings, source materials and machine additional fixtures which will aid the absorber assembly, all within three days.

There is also further potential for Siemens to help through our additive manufacturing network to 3D print metal parts through **Siemens Material Solutions** in Worcester, where they have a number of printing machines that use the laser powder bed fusion process.

Staedtler in Bridgend

donated £530 collected from staff and matched by the company to the Captain Tom Moore JustGiving page.

Stihl in Camberley

has been able to support their local NHS trust with a donation of 500 pairs of safety glasses and 40 face visors to provide essential PPE to key workers.

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ThyssenKrupp Materials in Cradley Heath

have donated hundreds of 3D printed face visors, made by their employees in their own time, to the NHS and PPE to care homes in and around the Cradley Heath and Dudley areas.

Vaillant in Belper

focussed their business on how they could support their installation customers and vulnerable people and the NHS with hot water being a hugely necessary requirement in the fight against COVID-19. They immediately offered NHS staff a free repair of a Vaillant or Glow-worm appliance as they have around 260 employed engineers who deal with servicing and repair work on a daily basis. They have also offered in excess of 300 NHS staff members this free service.

Their manufacturing plant in Belper registered to support any necessary manufacturing needs for the NHS or other requirements resulting from the situation. They had excess PPE in stock from their normal activities and offered these to local and national organisations who were in dire need of additional PPE, 45 biohazard suits and 4 visors went to Doncaster Royal Infirmary, 10 suits and 5 visors to Ada Care Home in Belper and 100 shoe covers to St Lukes Hospice in Kenton.

Volkswagen in Milton Keynes

has ensured that emergency service and key workers vehicles are maintained as needed and they kept around 40% of their workshop capacity open to ensure strong , national coverage.

Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles loaned out 63 vehicles to the NHS as well as local food banks. Also many dealers around the country are supporting their local community with demonstrator and loan vehicles too.

Volkswagen has also donated 76,000 temporary seat covers to NHS workers.

Last but not least, **GERMAN INDUSTRY UK** in Criccieth, the voice of German Business in the United Kingdom, has supported three 3 local care homes with a cash donation of £1000 to help with PPE.

Dr Bernd Atenstaedt
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