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Optinova is helping ÅHS and TYKS with PPE, the first deliveries have arrived in Åland

When the Coronavirus pandemic started, there was an acute shortage of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for front-line health workers across healthcare systems in the world. ÅHS (Åland Hospital and Healthcare) was quick to reach out to Optinova for assistance in acquiring the equipment. Although they had sufficient supplies at the time, they would like to be proactive and prepared if the situation worsens.

“ÅHS contacted us early on and they were clear about what they need, enabling us to immediately exert our strong, long-term contacts with suppliers and distributors in China that have been established since the late 1990s”, says Anders Wiklund, CEO, Optinova.

Today, 30,000 face shields have arrived in Åland from China. In addition, various sample face masks have been sent to VTT for quality check before 120,000 of them are widely distributed. We have secured the procurement of N-95 face masks, yet they will not be shipped until the authority has approved its quality for use in hospitals and health centers. First, we test, then we deliver. These masks are to be distributed to ÅHS and TYKS in Turku. There will also be 22 intensive care monitors to Åland which will be used to monitor seriously ill patients at ÅHS. They are expected to arrive by the end of the week.

“We are very grateful that Optinova has stepped up to help us with this preparation, their contacts in China and genuine intention have really made a big difference to not only safeguarding the health of our staff, but also the patients. Now, we are in an even better shape if the situation worsens, which, of course, we hope will not be the case”, says Jeanette Pajunen, Health and Medical Director of ÅHS.

In fact, getting the needed equipment itself has been our least concern. What has really taken time is the documentation process, the customs clearance out of China, the abrupt changes to regular export rules from Chinese authorities as well as an extremely tough and complicated transport situation in China at the moment. But in the end, it resulted fruitfully.

“I am impressed with how early ÅHS asked for support and proactively thought of the worst-case scenario. They also acted quickly to make the decision to enable this. This is a great example on how to act in a crisis. As a result, they are now receiving extra supplies of equipment that is scarce across the world. Although there was an initial shortage at first,

sufficient supplies of PPE are now available to them in a unique way. We want to help where we can, that is the essence of the #feelgoodfactory.”, says Wiklund.

Optinova has been able to do this thanks to our 20+ years of experience in China, the major suppliers of PPE are also long-term customers of Optinova’s. The long business relationships between Optinova and the Chinese partners have been crucial to make this happen.

“Optinova would like to send our gratitude to the local team and partner company in Shanghai, led by Mrs. Liu Rong, who has worked tirelessly to help the staff of Finnish hospitals secure important protective equipment. Without their support, this would not have been possible.”, concludes Wiklund.

For more information, please contact:

Anders Wiklund, CEO of Optinova Group, tel. +358457 57 59211

Jeanette Pajunen, Director of Health and Medical Services, ÅHS, tel. + 358400 19 8902

About Optinova Group

The Optinova Group is a leading global supplier of advanced tubing solutions for the global medical device industry, as well as fluoropolymer tubing for challenging industrial applications. Founded in 1971, Optinova is a Finnish company with 10 sales offices globally and 3 factories based in Åland and in Thailand. Optinova has approximately 430 employees across the world, of which 220 are in Åland, and we are supplying world-leading advanced tubing solutions to more than 1000 customers in over 50 countries. The Optinova Group has 100 production lines, making Optinova the world’s largest manufacturer in the industry. Optinova is owned by Eriksson Capital with its head office in Mariehamn.