COVID-19 Procurement Actions

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1. Europe

1.1 EU Joint Procurement Agreement (general info)

The Joint Procurement Agreement (JPA) was approved by the Commission on 10 April 2014, and as of March 2020 the JPA has been signed by all EU countries including Norway (March 20), Finland (March 27), Iceland (March 30), Bosnia & Herzegovina (April 10).

The JPA:
- Determines the practical arrangements governing the mechanism;
- Defines the decision-making process with regard to the choice of the procedures;
- Organises the assessment of the tenders and the award of the contract;
- Provides a common approach to the negotiation of contracts with industry (liability, availability, price e.g.);
- Authorises the Commission to act on behalf of the contracting parties (Member states) incl. the awarding;
- Awards framework contracts on which specific contracts are to be concluded on an individual basis by each contracting party up to the maximum amount they have reserved under the framework;

The Joint Procurement Agreement enables Member States to purchase medical countermeasures for different categories of threats, provided that they can be considered as a cross-border threat in the meaning of Article 3 (g) and in line with the objectives of Decision 1082/2013/EU.

The process of a JPA tender using the negotiated procedure:
1. The EC compiles a list that can be entitled to respond to the tender
2. The EC sends an invitation to these companies
3. The companies respond to the tender
4. The EC sends the framework contract to the companies that have been selected
5. The EC shares the information with the MoH for individual contracts (MS-companies).
1.2 EU Joint procurement activities

DG Sante is asking Member States to coordinate with their representatives at the Steering Committee of the JPA regarding needs for PPE, ventilators, testing reagent e.g. to be received by March 13.

Source: Summary 11th meeting on outbreak of coronavirus disease of the Health Security Committee, March 13

- **Joint procurement of PPE (launched 28 Feb and re-launched 15 March)**

The Commission has launched an accelerated joint procurement procedure for personal protective equipment (PPE; eye protection & masks class 2-3) with 19 & 20 Member States, with invitations to tender sent to a number of selected companies identified through market analysis. The signing of contract should be finalised beginning of April, at the earliest. DG SANTE noted that this is dependent of course on market availabilities, with supply restrictions and increased demand.

Type of procurement procedure: Competitive negotiated procedure based on invitation of selected suppliers to bid without prior publication of a call for competition in the Official Journal of the European Union because of the extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable for the contracting authority and in accordance with the strict conditions stated in the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

This 1st joint procurement tender for PPE has failed. On March 12 a notice on TED was published indicated both lot nr. 1 (eye protection) and lot nr. 2 (respiratory protection) were not awarded due to ‘no tenders or requests to participate were received or all were rejected’. Indicated awarding criteria: 50% price and 50% quality (of which speed of delivery rated 35%). Six countries apparently opted out: Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Lithuania and Portugal. Finland

Source: EU online TED database

On March 17 the Commission relaunched the public procurement for gloves and masks, in which 24 Member States are participating. The companies have now six days to tender and then the Member State can immediately sign up the contract the day after the tender is closed within the next six days.


On March 24 the Commission reports bid to ensure supply of personal protective equipment for the EU proves successful. Producers made offers covering and in some cases even exceeding the quantities requested by the Member States that take part in the procurement, for every single item requested. The joint procurement covers masks type 2 and 3, gloves, goggles, face-shields, surgical masks and overalls. The equipment should be available two weeks after the 25 Member States (excl. Poland and Finland) sign the contracts with the bidders.

• **Joint procurement of ventilators (launched 16 March)**

On March 16 a call for tenders was issued for respiratory ventilators (and testing kits?) using the negotiated procedure without prior publication. As indicated by the Commission it takes a while for industry to submit bids and for the Commission to review them.

The companies have six days to tender and then the Member State can immediately sign up the contract the day after the tender is closed within the next six days.

• **Joint procurement of laboratory equipment.**

On April 8, the Commission, DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE) announced it is planning to award a contract for “Call for tenders SANTE/2020/C3/019 for the supply of laboratory equipment used in the diagnosis of novel coronavirus containing 6 lots on sample collection swabs, sample transport boxes, detection/extraction kits, reagents, laboratory machinery and other equipment. The deadline to submit bids is on April 12. On the call for tenders the negotiated procedure is applicable, meaning only candidates receiving the Commission’s invitation may submit a tender. Any tender received from a legal or natural person not invited will be rejected. It remains unclear on what basis suppliers have been selected for this call (…)”

Contact JPA Secretariat (Johan Bodenkamp): sante-lux-joint-procurement-secretariat@ec.europa.eu

• **Joint stockpiling under Civil Protection Framework (RescEU)**

Commission intends to purchase personal protective equipment through the Civil Protection Framework RescEU. “It must be ensured that the Internal market functions properly and any unjustified obstacles are avoided. Particular attention must be given to masks and respirators”. The Commission is working on the development of medical capacities under the rescEU mechanism to allow the stockpiling of various products vaccines and therapeutics, intensive care medical equipment, personal protective equipment, laboratory supplies.

The stockpile will be hosted by one or several Member States. The hosting State will be responsible for procuring the equipment. The Emergency Response Coordination Centre will manage the distribution of the equipment to ensure it goes where it is needed most. The initial EU budget of the stockpile is €50 million, of which €40 million is subject to the approval of the budgetary authorities (total budget increased to €300 million on April 2, 2020). Once the measure enters into law on Friday 20 March, the Member State wishing to host RescEU stockpiles can apply for a direct grant from the European Commission. The direct grant covers 90% of the costs of the stockpile while the remaining 10% are born by the Member State.


During the March 25 Health Security Committee meeting some Member States raised the possibility of further JPA procurements and will revert to the Commission with the needs identified by March 26, which will then be dealt with via the Joint Procurement Agreement Steering Committee.

The European Commission is in talks with several EU countries to host the stockpiles of ventilators, face masks and other medical gear under the rescEU scheme. Romanian President Klaus Iohannis said on Thursday his country was the first to receive the Commission’s consent to initiate the procurement procedures necessary to establish stockpiles in Romania. The country will buy personal protective equipment and ventilators worth €10 million in a first stage.

Source: Politico, March 31, 2020

• WHO

In response to unprecedented demand and severe disruptions to the global supply chain, the WHO’s Supply Chain Inter-Agency Coordination Cell (SCICC) has established a supply working group to streamline procurement of critical items facing global shortage. Procurement of critical items is centralized, with transactions undertaken by a named group of interagency buyers operating at global level in response to country demand. Requests for supply of the critical items must be consolidated at country level through COVID-19 coordination mechanisms (varies per country). The airport of Liege (Belgium) has been selected the European port of entry (hb).

The WHO has published some tools and overviews regarding resource planning of medical devices to gauge the need for supplies/equipment and health work force requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic:

• Catalogue listing all medical devices including personal protective equipment, medical equipment, medical consumables, single use devices and laboratory and test related devices;

• List of Priority medical devices for case management;

• Essential Supplies Forecasting Tool to estimate potential requirements for essential supplies to respond to the current pandemic of COVID-19.

Source:
https://www.who.int/about/finances-accountability/procurement/en/
1.3 European investment information

To boost global preparedness, prevention and containment of the virus, new funding worth €232 million will be allocated to different sectors, of which: €100 million will go to urgently needed research related to diagnostics, therapeutics and prevention, including €90 million through the Innovative Medicines Initiative, a partnership between the EU and the pharmaceutical industry. On 31 January, the Commission launched a request for expressions of interest for research proposals on the novel coronavirus. A budget of €10 million is made available for research that will improve clinical care of patients infected with the virus, as well as the overall public health response.

The PREPARE project ensures research preparedness of clinical treatment sites and the use of harmonised research protocols across Europe through their network of 3,000 hospitals and 900 laboratories in 42 countries. Another EU-funded project, the European Virus Archive GLOBAL (EVAg) has already made available more than 1,000 kits that support the diagnosis of the novel coronavirus, to 79 countries worldwide.

The EU has issued a factsheet on all running Research Initiatives, including the IMI call, the EMA guidance the EIC accelerator and the HG nCoV19 project to develop and validate rapid molecular diagnostic test for the novel coronavirus.

Sources:
https://www.imi.europa.eu/apply-funding/open-calls/imi2-call-21

Commission unveils €3B plan to support health responses, testing

The European Commission today proposed spending €3 billion of reserves from the EU budget to support national health care systems and scaling up testing. Of the €3 billion, €300 million would go toward the rescEU medical equipment stockpiling program (see above), to add to €80 million announced last month. The rest would go into an emergency fund called the Emergency Support Instrument, which could be used to support the import and distribution of protective gear, assist in construction of mobile field hospitals, help with transportation of patients across borders or develop treatments and testing methods. The funding would be drawn from reserves in the EU’s 2020 budget, under an initiative of Commissioner Johannes Hahn.

Source:
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_577?utm_source=POLITICO.EU&utm_campaign=b0a2a51dc0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_02_10_36&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_10959edeb5-b0a2a51dc0-190517313

Catalunya Government

The Ministry of Health of the Catalan government allocates €4m to 19 COVID-19 research projects. Proposals include vaccine development, treatments and genetic studies. The research will be led by researchers from IRISCAT.

Source: http://salutweb.gencat.cat/ca/inici/nota-premsa/?id=384510
1.4 European legislative actions

- **Recommendation on conformity assessment and market surveillance**
PPE or medical devices **not bearing the CE marking** could also be assessed and part of a purchase organised by the relevant Member State authorities provided that is ensured that such products are only available for the **healthcare workers** for the duration of the **current health crisis** and that they are not entering the regular distribution channels and made available to other users.

Where market surveillance authorities find that PPE or medical devices ensure an adequate level of health and safety in accordance with the essential requirements laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/425 or the requirements of Directive 93/42/EEC or Regulation (EU) 2017/745, even though the conformity assessment procedures, including the affixing of CE marking have not been fully finalised according to the harmonised rules, they may authorise the making available of these products on the Union market for a limited period of time and while the necessary procedures are being carried out.

**Source:** Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/403 of March 13, 2020

- **Commission moves to ensure supply of personal protective equipment**
The Commission has taken immediate steps to **protect availability of supplies** of personal protective equipment (PPE), by requiring that exports of such equipment outside of the European Union are subject to an **export authorisation** by Member States. This implementing act, adopted by urgency procedure and published today, provides for authorisations for exports to third countries. It will be valid for a six-week period, during which Member States will be consulted on the potential adaptations and scope of the current measure and future steps.

**Source:**

Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton earlier Sunday celebrated Germany and France’s decisions to **unblock exports** after “intense conversations” between all three.

**Source:** Politico (March 15)

- **Commission issues advice on border management**
On March 23, the Commission issued new practical advice on how to implement its **Guidelines for border management**, in order to keep freight moving across the EU during the current pandemic. To ensure that EU-wide supply chains continue to operate, Member States are requested to designate, without delay, all the relevant internal border-crossing points on the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) as ‘**green lane**’ **border crossings**. The green lane border crossings should be open to all freight vehicles, whatever goods they are carrying. Crossing the border, including any checks and health screening, should not take more than 15 minutes.


March 27, 94 MEPs have in a **letter** to von der Leyen urged the EC to help **ensure the free flow** of medicine across the bloc. They underline that **border checks and closures** should not affect citizen’s health.
• **Deliveries of protective equipment to Switzerland (EFTA) still blocked (?)**
The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) stated that deliveries of protective equipment to Switzerland are still blocked in France and Germany, despite a European Union directive exempting the export of protective equipment to EFTA states from needing an export permit.
*Source: https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/coronavirus_medical-goods-from-the-eu-remain-blocked/45642340*

• **European standards medical supplies made freely available to facilitate increase of production**
The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electro technical Standardization (CENELEC), have agreed to immediately make available a number of European standards for certain medical devices and personal protective equipment. This action will help both EU and third-country companies willing to manufacture these items to swiftly start production and place products on the internal market more easily while ensuring a high degree of safety. Providing free access to the national adoptions of these European standards helps both EU and third country companies which are reconverting their production lines to manufacture quickly these critical items for preventing the coronavirus pandemic. The use of the standards will enable companies that use them to access the market for such fundamental medical and protection equipment quicker and to provide those in need with such medical equipment. Normally, standards must be purchased and used in line with the intellectual property right rules, as the copyright of the standards lies with the organisations, which have developed the standards. The derogation from this business model is a strong European response, based on a sense of social responsibility and solidarity, to address the shortage problem of protective equipment. The standards are freely available from the websites.

• **Commission adopts revised standards to speed devices to market**
As part of work to facilitate a faster and less expensive conformity assessment procedure for those marketing certain medical devices, the European Commission adopted revised harmonized standards. The commission's implementing decisions relate to the medical devices, in vitro diagnostics and active implantable medical devices directives. The revised standards are meant to speed the production of medical face masks, gloves, containers for intravenous injections, sterilization devices and disinfectants and alter particular requirements for ventilators, among others.

• **Commission publishes guidance on the use of the public procurement framework**
The Commission issued a Guidance on the public procurement framework providing options under the EUs public procurement directive to public procurers. The Guidance focusses especially on procurements in cases of extreme urgency, which enable public buyers to buy within a matter of days, even hours, if necessary. The Guidance addresses several available options and flexibilities:
1. Reducing deadlines to accelerate open or restricted procedures;
2. Applying the negotiated procedure without prior publication;
3. Direct awarding to a preselected economic operator (provided the operator is the only one able to deliver within the technical and time constraints imposed).
*Source: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=uriserv:OJ.CI.2020.108.01.0001.01.ENG*
• **Commission decides on relief from import duties and VAT exemption on importation**
  Goods shall be admitted free of import duties and exempted of value added tax (VAT) on the imports provided some conditions on the intended use of the goods are fulfilled or the goods are imported for release into free circulation by or on behalf of disaster relief agencies.

• **Commission provides guidance on allowing limited cooperation among businesses (anti-trust)**
  The European Commission has published a Temporary Framework Communication to provide antitrust guidance to companies cooperating in response to urgent situations related to the current coronavirus outbreak. In this context, the Commission is also issuing a “comfort letter” concerning a specific cooperation project aimed at avoiding situations of shortages of critical hospital medicines. The Temporary Framework is meant to provide antitrust guidance to companies willing to temporarily cooperate and coordinate their activities in order to increase production in the most effective way and optimise supply of, in particular, urgently needed hospital medicines.

• **Guidelines on the optimisation of supply of medicines during the COVID-19 outbreak**
  On April 8 the Commission issued guideline on the optimisation of supply of medicines during the COVID-19 outbreak. Member States should ensure that wholesaler distributors, community pharmacies and hospitals receive their usual stocks of medicines. Supplementary demand (voluntary stockpiles) must be justified according to the number of COVID-19 patients in the affected area. In situations of high demand, national coordination between authorities, procurers and industry should be put in place to guarantee an equitable distribution of medicines. In order to ensure adequate supply, and especially in case of urgent demand, the flexibilities outlined in the Commission guidance on using the public procurement framework in the emergency situation related to the COVID-19 crisis should be taken into account. It is recommended that procurement is organised regularly at short intervals to avoid shortages and prevent stockpiling. As much as possible, in order to increase efficiency, purchases for hospitals should be bundled and organised by central purchasing bodies active in the healthcare sector.

• **MedTech Europe’s overview on type of diagnostic tests**
  MedTech Europe has created a comprehensive overview on the types of diagnostics tests and components needed to detect COVID-19.
2. National

2.1 Legislative actions

- **Italy**

**Derogations from procurement code**

The extraordinary emergency situation that has arisen in Italy - formalized with the declaration of a state of emergency by means of a resolution of the Council of Ministers dated 31 January 2020 - has led to a series of significant derogations from the application of the general rules provided for by Legislative Decree No. 50/2016 (Public Procurement Code). Such derogations are mainly aimed at allowing the State Administrations (Ministry of Justice, Health, etc.) and the Civil Protection Department (coordinator of interventions, including "the acquisition of drugs, medical devices, personal protection" under the Ordinance of the Head of the Civil Protection Department - OCDPC n. 630 of 3 February 2020) speed up in the purchase of medical devices. However, at the same time, they undoubtedly represent an important opportunity for companies operating in this sector to enter the "public" market. E.g. It is allowed to derogate from the prior consultation of economic operators provided for in the case of contracts below the threshold (a derogation currently provided for only in the case of contracts worth less than €40,000) and in the case of negotiated procedures without prior publication dictated by reasons of extreme urgency (usual to consult at least five economic operators).


- **Italy**

**Decrees prohibiting sale outside territory**

Decrees issued in February and March by the Italian Civil Protection authorities prohibit the sale outside the national territory. In addition to personal protective equipment, also tools and devices for mechanical ventilation of patients with respiratory diseases apply to these orders. The seized devices will be delivered to civil protection for aid to Italian hospital facilities (Ordinanza ref. 639, 641, 23).

Source: [https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/home](https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/home)

- **UK**

**Procurement Policy Note on procurements under the Public Contract Regulations**

Under a UK Government released PPN a range of commercial actions must be considered by contracting authorities in responding to the impact of COVID-19. In such exceptional circumstances, authorities may need to procure goods, services and works with extreme urgency. This is permissible under current public procurement regulations using regulation 32(2)(c). This PPN and associated guidance covers options that may be considered in relation to procurements under the Public Contract Regulations 2015:

- direct award due to extreme urgency (regulation 32(2)(c));
- direct award due to absence of competition or protection of exclusive rights;
- call off from an existing framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system;
- call for competition using a standard procedure with accelerated timescales;
- extending or modifying a contract during its term
**Source:**

**Procurement Policy Note on prompt payment of invoices to ensure survival of suppliers**
This (PPN) sets out information and **guidance** for public bodies on payment of their suppliers to ensure service continuity during and after the current COVID-19 outbreak. Contracting authorities must act now to ensure suppliers at risk are in a position to resume normal contract delivery once the outbreak is over.

**Source:**

**Chancellor waives import taxes on vital medical equipment**
The Chancellor has **waived import taxes** on medical equipment crucial to the fight against coronavirus on goods arriving from outside the EU. NHS suppliers will no longer have to pay customs duty and import VAT on specific medical goods coming from outside the EU, including ventilators, coronavirus testing kits and protective clothing.

**Source:**

**Netherlands**

**Research on sterilisation of single-use FFP2 masks**
Research by the Dutch State Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM, part of the Ministry of Health) shows that once and twice **resterilisation** with a short process with hydrogen peroxide ensures that FFP2 mouth masks keep their shape and were able to stop particles in a quick test. In times of scarcity, FFP2 masks can be used in this way three times, in between which they are sterilised twice with hydrogen peroxide.

The results have been discussed in the outbreak management team (OMT). The OMT sees the **usefulness of this application** if urgent shortages occur. The so-called surgical mouth masks were not included in this study. These are the oral masks that healthcare providers wear during operations, such as surgery, to protect the patient against microorganisms originating from the healthcare provider on the one hand and to protect the healthcare provider against, among other things, blood spatter on the other hand. These surgical masks do not fit as tightly on the user's face as FFP2 mouth masks and are therefore not effective in protecting against the coronavirus. The study was performed on unused 3M FFP2 NR D masks (type 8822). Based on the results of the above exploratory study, one-time reprocessing of disposable FFP2 mouth masks appears to be a possibility.

**Source:** https://www.rivm.nl/en/documenten/reuse-of-ffp2-masks

**Exports outside EU requiring export license**
When exporting **personal protective equipment** (such as mouth masks, splash goggles, gloves) (from the Netherlands) to countries outside the EU, an **export license** is required. The Health Care and Youth Inspectorate (IGJ) has been designated as the competent authority to decide on licence applications.
Now that there is a shortage of personal protective equipment, the Inspectorate will, in principle, not issue an export licence. The IGJ inspectorate cooperates with the Central Import and Export Department (CDIU), part of Customs. Applications (application form see below) for export licences can be submitted to the CDIU by e-mail to drn-cdiu.groningen@belastingdienst.nl. A decision will be made within five working days.


Source: https://download.belastingdienst.nl/douane/docs/aanvr-uitv-pers-beschermmidd-iud1001z1fol.pdf

NEVI guidance on public procurement
Dutch Procurement and Supply Chain Association (NEVI) have issued a guidance (Dutch only) to public buyers on how to deal with the current crisis situation from a public procurement perspective.

Source: https://nevi.nl/nieuws/handreiking-inkoop-de-publieke-sector-tijdens-een-crisis

- Germany
Lifting national export restrictions
The national export restrictions on medical protective equipment of March 12 have just been lifted. The EU implementing regulation of 14 March applies.

Source: BVMed website

Partly removing compulsory CE marking for protective equipment
In order to cope with the current crisis situation and in view of limited production quantities of the goods listed in the Annex in Germany, it is urgently necessary to purchase these goods at the place of manufacture/provision and import them into Germany, even if they do not bear a CE/NE marking, for example. These products are considered to be marketable in Germany if they would be marketable in the United States of America, Canada, Australia or Japan - even without CE/NE marking, declaration of conformity and instructions for use in German language. For products that are marketable outside the above-mentioned countries, the marketability in Germany must be checked by suitable bodies.

Source: https://www.bvmed.de/de/technologien/hygieneprodukte/corona-informationen-des-bvmed-zu-praevention-und-umgang

Under the Medical Need Supply Guarantee Ordinance (MedBVSV) the health ministry will be entitled to organize the procuring, storing, manufacturing and marketing of so-called medical need products either by itself or through commissioned bodies. For the ministry this means it will have the temporary right to procure products ranging from drugs and their active ingredients, to medical devices, laboratory diagnostics, items of PPE and disinfectants. The aim is to distribute these products centrally and ensure nationwide supply.

• **Romania**

Issuing derogation from procurement rules

The President of Romania issued the Decree no. 195/2020 for proclaiming a **30-day state of emergency** effective 16 March 2020. According to article 10 of the Decree: “central public authorities and legal entities where the state is a majority shareholder” to **directly purchase** materials and equipment necessary for fighting the epidemic.

Source: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=71bb9476-2c75-408f-871c-42ad23860286

• **Malta**

Public Contracts Review Board closed; no objections/appeals accepted

The Public Contracts Review Board—which is the judicial body established by law to hear public procurement related challenges—falls within the scope of these orders and it has been forcibly closed. The Board on 16 March 2020 issued a communication on its website stating the following: “in accordance with legal notice L.N. 61 of 2020 and L.N. 65 of 2020, please be advised that this board **cannot accept objections** or pre-contractual appeals until further notice”.


• **France**

France (and Romania) apparently have imposed **export bans on chloroquine**, an anti-malaria drug which might have an effect in treating corona patients.

• **Overview on main developments regarding the legal situation and public procurement (CMS)**

The CMS Public Procurement Group has created a comprehensive overview regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the **legal situation** and **public procurement** in 23 countries worldwide, including several EU MS in addition to those mentioned above.

Source: http://www.cms-rrh.net/Events/2020_RRH/04_PublicProcurementGroup/enews.html
2.2 Procurement activities

- **Italy**
  
  CONSIP, on behalf of the Italian Civil Protection Department, on March 9 issued a tender for the procurement of protective equipment divided in 16 lots ranging from masks, hand gel and echo equipment. Ref. ID 2282. Estimated total value **Euro 260 million. Negotiated procedure** under the declaration of an emergency situation. Bids have to be sent in by March 11, 16.00 hrs. Awarding criterion is **lowest price**. Framework agreements will be agreed and ordering by CONSIP will be based on the cascade method taking account the possibility of limited supply capacity by suppliers. End of contract 31 July 2020 based on the anticipated declaration of the end of the emergency situation by then.

In addition to the above mentioned tender, on 13-18 March CONSIP has issued several public tenders to fight COVID-19. These are all negotiated procedures based on strict defined product specifications and framework contracts awarding based on 100% price and, given the emergency status, **not published on TED, as indicated by CONSIP**:
- Diagnostic kits for coronavirus diagnostics;
- Rhino pharyngeal swabs;
- Humidifiers, emergency trolleys, CPAP helmets, NIV helmets, devices and related services, intended for the health emergency;
- Personal Protective Equipment and electro medical equipment;
- Medical devices for intensive care and sub-intensive care *(of which 1,900 ventilators by Mindray)*.

All tenders will be published on CONSIP’s website: [https://www.consip.it/bandi-di-gara/covid-19](https://www.consip.it/bandi-di-gara/covid-19)

**Source:**

**SoReSa** (Soggetto Aggregatore della Regione Campania) has recently launched a set of **Market Investigations** to identify suppliers for:
- Biomedical equipment;
- Medical devices;
- Medication/drugs;
- Lung ventilators.

**Deadline** to subscribe is **April 3**. Additional information on the products, procedure and associated documents can be found on SoReSa’s website.

In addition to these market investigation to prepare for future tenders, **additional open tenders** can be found on the website as well.

**Source:** [http://www.soresa.it/](http://www.soresa.it/)
**Innova for Italia**, an initiative by several Italian ministries, invites all companies, universities, public and private research centres and organizations, associations, cooperatives, consortia, foundations and institutes who can **contribute to supply** within the crisis period:

- **Personal protective equipment** and production of **complex respirator systems** for the treatment of respiratory syndromes;
- Kits or innovative technologies that facilitate the **diagnosis of Covid-19** in terms of swabs and accessory elements and tools for quick and easy diagnosis;
- Technologies and tools that allow or facilitate the **monitoring, prevention, treatment and control** of Covid-19.

Companies and organisations **interested** to join are requested to fill out the **application form** which can be found on the dedicated website: https://innovaperlitalia.agid.gov.it/home/#adesione-requisiti

**Source**: https://innovaperlitalia.agid.gov.it/home/

**F.A.R.E. creates e-procurement tool on the availability of stock**

The **F.A.R.E. - Federation of Associations of Economics of Health Buyers**- and the company Net4market-CSAmmed have created a temporary **e-procurement portal**, by which buyers from all over Italy will be able to check the **availability of stocks** made known by **local economic operators**, and therefore assessing the possibility of obtaining products in warehouse stock with very fast delivery times **for amounts lower than € 40,000** net of VAT. For small local suppliers, not necessarily in the health sector, the platform will allow visibility and a sales opportunity that would otherwise not be possible. The platform, started on March 25, has already a significant number of registrations from healthcare facilities as well as small and micro retailers.

**Source**: www.fareonline.it by clicking on the appropriate banner or https://app.albofornitori.it/alboeproc/albo_fareonline

**Italian Lombardy region launches international call for tenders (ARIA)**

In order to face the outbreak of COVID-19 epidemic, **ARIA S.p.A.**, the central purchasing company of the Lombardy Region, has launched several **international calls for tenders** to purchase medical equipment to treat the most seriously ill patients who need to be hospitalized and also a list of equipment needed to protect doctors and health personnel from the next two months of emergency.

The tenders cover e.g. protective clothing headgear and masks (qty 20 million) as well as hydro-alcohol, ICU-beds and associated medical equipment.

**Source**: https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/open-calls/italy-attention-clusters-medtech-sector-international-call-tenders
• **UK**
The UK government is looking for businesses who can support in the supply of 20,000 ventilators and ventilator components across the UK as part of our response to COVID-19. As well as manufacturers, we are looking for businesses with the following skills: design/specification, rapid prototyping, contract/product assembly, certification/regulation/testing, logistics medical training. If you think your business can help, please register before midday 18 March 2020 using https://ventilator.herokuapp.com/


**NHS Supply Chain** opened a Covid-19 Response Form for all suppliers offering logistic and other support, including the supply of PPE, ventilators, testing, medicines and clinical trials.

Source: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mbNygumLpkWaLEkw6Ma9aMU0f5SZn4ZFgvcPI4SFkJUMkwN1IzMUxXODgxMiJEWVpZNVNPSE1XUi4u

The UK Government is pursuing a three-pronged strategy to source 30,000 ventilators for the NHS to treat Covid-19 patients: ordering newly designed models, scaling up production of existing ones and importing machines from overseas. A consortium called Ventilator Challenge UK, involving companies including Airbus, Rolls-Royce and Ford, is separately providing the manufacturing muscle to scale up production of proven models already made by the specialist UK firms Smiths and Penlon. UK Government would also join an EU scheme to procure ventilators, having initially said it would not take part.


UK Government has cancelled an order for 1,000 ventilators that have been developed by a group including two Formula 1 teams (Red Bull and Renault) after it was decided that the device is not suitable for treating COVID-19.

Source: www.independent.co.uk

• **Germany**
The German government, under the leadership of the Bundeswehr (Army) Procurement Office, has purchased medical supplies worth 163 million euros to help overcome the corona crisis. To this end, 23 contracts with German and international suppliers had been concluded by Friday, the German Press Agency learned from the Ministry of Defence. The program serves to procure extensive protective equipment, disinfectants and medical material for the German health care system. The medical technology manufacturer Dräger received an order from the German government for 10,000 ventilators. According to Vice Chancellor Scholz more than one billion euros are earmarked for medical procurements, including protective masks.

Source: https://www.aerztezeitung.de/Wirtschaft/Draeger-faehrt-Sonderschichten-um-Beatmungsgeraete-herzustellen-407695.html
Cologne-based EKK Plus has established a dedicated Task Force for the procurement of COVID-19 related products such as PPE, disinfectants as well as ventilators and associated consumables. General email for all supplier contacts: info@gdekk.de

- **Netherlands**

On 17 March the Dutch Government has installed the ‘Landelijk Consortium Hulpmiddelen’ (National Resources Consortium) for the centralised procurement and distribution of COVID-19 related products. Products like mouth masks (FFP1/2/3), surgical masks, gloves, eye protection glasses, disinfectants, ventilators and diagnostic tests will be purchased by a dedicated team of purchasers, suppliers and manufacturers and distributed nationwide using a centralised warehouse on a non-profit basis. For the distribution on cost-base level, a coordinator shall be appointed in each ROAZ region (ROAZ: Regional Committee for Acute Care). This coordinator can thus be approached now to solve bottlenecks, for example by redistribution within or between regions in the event of acute shortages. Healthcare institutions that are not affiliated to the ROAZ structure may, in the event of bottlenecks and acute problems also contact the coordinator, such as an infected patient and a lack of protective equipment. In the longer term, it will be examined whether and how these settings can be aligned with the existing structure. The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport supports the procurement team in its contacts with embassies in the Netherlands and with prefinancing. Suppliers interested to cooperate and/or to provide bids for large quantities to these non-public tender projects can contact the dedicated procurement team by email: middelencorona@nfu.nl

Source: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-covid-19/zorg/beschermingsmiddelen

As of April 2, the ‘Landelijk Consortium Hulpmiddelen’ has delivered 3.7 million 2R masks, 2 million FFP2 masks and 7.9 million gloves to Dutch hospitals. Products being delivered by the Consortium to the Dutch health care providers are being distributed by Mediq on a cost-price basis to which publicly posted prices are being calculated on a weekly basis by the Government (internal transfer pricing).

In addition, the Dutch Ministry of Health has ordered > 3 million protective FFP2 masks from new local consortium Auping and AFPRO. On April 13 a dedicated machine for the production was flown in from Wuhan, China. The Dutch government will be responsible for dividing and distributing to the hospitals

In addition to the Dutch nationwide procurement and distribution activities as mentioned above, various private initiatives may arise to share small stocks that people and SMEs themselves still have. These initiators are advised to offer them as much as possible to the Dutch Red Cross. These may not all be mouth masks of the types FFP1, FFP2 and FFP3, but may also be surgical mouth masks, for example. The Dutch Red Cross is to be contacted using email beschermingsmiddelen@rodekruis.nl

On March 20 the Dutch minister of Health informed Dutch parliament on the latest state of play on the coronavirus outbreak and the ongoing joint procurement activities, as described above.

• **Slovenia**
Slovenia is to receive 300,000 protective face masks from two foundations of the Chinese multinational technology company Alibaba and its founder Jack Ma. The donation, which is expected to arrive in Slovenia on Thursday evening or Friday morning, is reportedly a result of a friendship between Ma and UEFA boss Aleksander Čeferin. According to the media, the Slovenian lawyer who heads the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) has been involved in this project since he is a friend of Ma and has thus contributed to the efforts to raise such an amount of coveted protective gear. The Jack Ma Foundation and the Alibaba Foundation have donated 1.5 million masks altogether to France, Belgium and Slovenia to help fight the coronavirus epidemic in these countries.


• **Belgium**
Belgium ASL Group has supplied 5 million (surgical/standard) masks from China to be distributed to the Belgium Hospitals. Additional shipments are to be expected next week delivering another 15-20 million items.


• **Estonia**
Because the European Commission’s joint tender for personal protective equipment is dragging on, the Health Board is looking for alternative suppliers. The first two shipments should reach Estonia in the near future. Director General of the Health Board Merike Jürilo said that the first shipment of masks is scheduled to arrive in Estonia on March 27, followed by another one in five or six days’ time. The board said it has signed two contracts for 50,000 FFP3 respirators in early March and another 85,000 FFP3 respirators. The six-month agreement holds the possibility of ordering another 260k masks in the future.

**Source:** [https://news.err.ee/1067330/european-masks-tender-dragging-on-health-board-looking-for-alternatives](https://news.err.ee/1067330/european-masks-tender-dragging-on-health-board-looking-for-alternatives)

• **Ireland**
HBS Procurement have been working collaboratively with suppliers to support the health service through these challenging times and it is important to recognise the extent of this engagement. HBS Procurement have been working intensely under increasing pressure in order to manage the supply and replenishment of critical PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) stocks to support the service through COVID-19. A single point of contact for supply and replenishment of critical PPE stocks to support the service through COVID-19 is now available and all stock related queries should be channelled through this Customer Service Team. Businesses aligned to supplying health care products please email at covid19.procurement@hse.ie and include a specific subject line: Supplier Sourcing Information.

**Source:** [https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthbusinessservices/procurement/hbs%20procurement%20covid-19%20.html](https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthbusinessservices/procurement/hbs%20procurement%20covid-19%20.html)
**EHPPA (Europe)**

EHPPA, the European Health Public Procurement Alliance of ten purchasing groups in the health sector, is intensifying cooperation between its members to address the health crisis. True to its philosophy of cooperation, EHPPA, has decided to exchange information on the solutions deployed in each country to deal with the current health crisis via a teleconference. The aim is to disseminate as widely as possible the good practices likely to guarantee the proper supply of health establishments in this emergency situation. Italy has been dealing with the epidemic for longer than other countries and can help other EHPPA members by sharing its experience. Gathering as much information as possible in the coming weeks may prove essential to anticipate, for example, possible shortages of various products and equipment in hospitals and pharmacies, to preserve the reliability of the supply chain, to ensure the sustainability of certain services (cleaning, catering, maintenance of information systems, medical devices, etc.).

EHPPA members are: Amgros (Denmark), Centrale des Hôpitaux de Vaud et Genève (Switzerland), Consorci de Salut i Social de Catalunya (Catalonia), MercurHosp (Wallonia), NHS Commercial Solutions (UK), Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centres (NFU), SCR (Piedmont), SPMS (Portugal), Sykehusinnkjøp HF (Norway) and Resah (France).

**Source:** www.ehppa.com

**Finland**

Finland will spend €600 million on procuring PPE and medical devices for the coronavirus crisis. The procurement would be made through the country’s National Emergency Supply Agency.

**Source:**
3. Local level

3.1 Local tenders

Available now on TED online is a comprehensive overview of all COVID-19 related call for tenders. This is to facilitate access to tenders related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, the list highlights public procurement in the area of medical equipment, thus mirroring the needs of health care services and authorities.

### 3.2 Local non tenders and requests

Below an overview of some individual requests by local hospitals for the supply of (mainly) protective equipment in unnamed quantities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Product(s)</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Albert Schweitzer Hospital</td>
<td>Dordrecht</td>
<td>Surgical/ &amp; FFPx masks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Pantein Maasziekenhuis</td>
<td>Boxmeer</td>
<td>Syringe pumps, FFP2 masks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE</td>
<td>Heilig Hart ziekenhuis</td>
<td>Lier</td>
<td>Gloves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>St. Vincent</td>
<td>Besancon</td>
<td>FFP2 masks, protective clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>VieCuri Medical Center</td>
<td>Venlo</td>
<td>Gowns, surgical caps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>University Medical Center</td>
<td>Groningen</td>
<td>FFP2/3 masks, eye protection, gowns/apron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Wilhelmina Hospital</td>
<td>Assen</td>
<td>FFP2/3 masks, eye protection, gowns/apron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Frisian Hospitals</td>
<td>Leeuwarden</td>
<td>FFPx masks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Reinier de Graaf Hospital</td>
<td>Delft</td>
<td>FFPx masks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Vitaal Homecare</td>
<td>Huizen</td>
<td>Gowns, disinfectant, eye protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE</td>
<td>Clinique de l’Europe</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>FFPx masks, surgical masks, eye protection, gowns/apron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Maastricht University Medical Center</td>
<td>Maastricht</td>
<td>Examination gloves (non-latex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Capio Nordics</td>
<td>Gothenborg</td>
<td>Eye protection, Face shields, FFPx mouth masks, protective garment/gowns/apron, gloves, hand disinfections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Entity</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>Contact Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>--------</td>
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<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Ramsey Sante GDS</td>
<td>ParisG</td>
<td>Eye protection, Face shields, FFPx mouth masks, protective garment/gowns/apron, gloves, hand disinfections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Median Kliniken</td>
<td></td>
<td>Eye protection, Face shields, FFPx mouth masks, protective garment/gowns/apron, gloves, hand disinfections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td>Luz Saude</td>
<td>Lisbon</td>
<td>Eye protection, Face shields, FFPx mouth masks, protective garment/gowns/apron, gloves, hand disinfections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Vivalto Sante</td>
<td>Saint-Gregoire</td>
<td>Eye protection, Face shields, FFPx mouth masks, protective garment/gowns/apron, gloves, hand disinfections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT</td>
<td>Landeskliniken Niederösterreich</td>
<td>St. Polten</td>
<td>Eye protection, Face shields, FFPx mouth masks, protective garment/gowns/apron, gloves, hand disinfections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Hospital/Network</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Available Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Atos Kliniken</td>
<td>Munchen</td>
<td>Eye protection, Face shields, FFPx mouth masks, protective garment/gowns/apron, gloves, hand disinfections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>St. Antonius Hospital</td>
<td>NL-Homecare</td>
<td>Pulsoximeters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Ziekenhuis Netwerk Antwerpen - ZNA</td>
<td>Antwerpen</td>
<td>Gloves, Gowns/Apron, Eye protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Resah</td>
<td>France/Paris</td>
<td>Diagnostic tools, Swabs, Syringe pumps, Infusion pumps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Social media (Twitter, LinkedIn)
• Attachment: Overview

For additional information see above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Product scope</th>
<th>Weblink</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>JPA</td>
<td>Personal Protective Equipment</td>
<td>ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>JPA</td>
<td>Ventilators</td>
<td>ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>JPA</td>
<td>Laboratory equipment &amp; Testing kits</td>
<td>ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>rescEU</td>
<td>PPE, lab supplies, vaccines, ICU equipment</td>
<td>ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>CONSIP</td>
<td>Diagnostic kits, swabs, emergency equipment, PPE, ICU equipment</td>
<td><a href="http://www.consip.it/bandi-di-gara/covid-19">www.consip.it/bandi-di-gara/covid-19</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>SoReSa</td>
<td>Biomedical equipment, medical devices, medication/drugs, lung ventilators</td>
<td><a href="http://www.soresa.it/">www.soresa.it/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Innova Italia</td>
<td>PPE, respirator system production, diagnosis</td>
<td>innovaperlitalia.agid.gov.it/home/#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>FARE</td>
<td>Stock availability local/small suppliers (order &lt; 40k)</td>
<td>fareonline.it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>UK Gov.</td>
<td>Ventilators</td>
<td>ventilator.herokuapp.com/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>NHS</td>
<td>PPE, ventilators, testing, medicines, clinical trials</td>
<td><a href="https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mbNygumLpkWaLEkw6Ma9aMU0f5Sz4FgvcPI4SFkLUMkwWN1lzMUpxODgxMIJEVpZNVNPSE1XU4u">https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mbNygumLpkWaLEkw6Ma9aMU0f5Sz4FgvcPI4SFkLUMkwWN1lzMUpxODgxMIJEVpZNVNPSE1XU4u</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE</td>
<td>EKK plus</td>
<td>PPE, disinfectants, ventilators, various consumables</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@gdekk.de">info@gdekk.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Products</td>
<td>Contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
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<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>NL Gov.</td>
<td>PPE, disinfectants, ventilators, diagnostic kits (large qty)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:middelencorona@nfu.nl">middelencorona@nfu.nl</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Red Cross</td>
<td>PPE, gloves e.g. (small qty)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:beschermingsmiddelen@rodekruis.nl">beschermingsmiddelen@rodekruis.nl</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)</td>
<td>Development of diagnostics, anti-virals, therapeutics etc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.imi.europa.eu/apply-funding/open-calls/imi2-call-21">www.imi.europa.eu/apply-funding/open-calls/imi2-call-21</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Local public tenders</td>
<td>Various products</td>
<td>EU - TED references <a href="https://simap.ted.europa.eu/web/simap/covid-related-tenders">https://simap.ted.europa.eu/web/simap/covid-related-tenders</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Local requests</td>
<td>Various products</td>
<td>Local email/contacts</td>
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</tbody>
</table>