



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY Co-Innovate (The Innovation Pathway Programme)

THEME:

Research and Innovation

FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

€16,641,271.28

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ireland; the Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland; and the Scottish Government

LEAD PARTNER:

InterTrade Ireland

PROJECT PARTNERS

Enterprise NI Ltd; East Border Region Ltd.; Local Enterprise Offices (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo); Scottish Enterprise; and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Start Date: 01/08/2016

End Date: 31/03/2023



<https://co-innovateprogramme.eu/>



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THOUSANDS OF HEALTH-CARE VISORS TO BE PRODUCED WITH HELP FROM COINNOVATE FUNDING

A group of firms has come together to set up not-for-profit company, Hero Shield Ltd, to manufacture face visors for health workers with help from €300,000 of funding from Co-Innovate.

The Co-Innovate initiative, led by InterTradeIreland and supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), is providing the cash injection to the cross-border group of 18 companies, to help them produce thousands of low-cost, quality face shields in response to Covid-19.

There has been an overwhelming response from the health sector both north and south, with orders recently placed for 70,000 visors per week.

From an initial idea on 20th March, the collective worked at break-neck speed to repurpose their manufacturing facilities and supply chains.

Adam Murphy, CEO of Shnuggle, said: "Hero Shield was born when we heard about the desperate need for PPE. We saw an opportunity to use our collective skills and knowledge of precision engineering, plastics and manufacturing to create a low-cost, fast-manufacture face shield. We wanted these to be distributed free of charge or at cost. We will sell some product at a small profit to private companies, which will raise funds to make even more Hero Shields, allowing us to continue operating as a not-forprofit company. Funding from Co-Innovate has provided us with the financial support to keep this amazing venture running for the benefit of all in society."

