

Innovation in Production and Supply of Emergency Equipment's (PPE and Ventilators) during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 infection has already put the world through a series of unprecedented and unforeseen circumstances, including a shortage of Hospitals, medical equipment, medical staff and the most tragic of all; a shortage of protective equipment for the majority of the world's frontline life-saving staff. The infection has been known to cause severe respiratory problems in some of the infected patients, who must then depend on mechanical external support to help them breathe. These medical ventilators have become the most essential lifesaving equipment for patients with COVID-19 related respiratory problems.

A patent-search was done in LexisNexis® PatentSight®, with the aim of identifying the companies which already have the underlying groundwork in the field of ventilator and those fields that can be applied in producing PPE. The search syntax developed for this included a combination of keywords and IPC classifications. Explicit keywords were selected to include inventions in invasive, non-invasive, continuous positive airway pressure technology-based ventilation methods among other critical innovations in ventilators and inventions related to the different parts of the ventilators. Keeping in account that the purpose of the search was to identify those companies which possess the capacity to make active, significant and immediate contribution to combat the current crisis, the scope of the search was kept narrow and focused, limited to Title, Abstract or Claims to retrieve the patents that explicitly and definitively disclose the invention in the field of medical ventilator, unlike the conservative patent searching methods, where a broader scope of search is used to cover all the related patent applications.

Keywords: PPE, Ventilators

Abbreviations: PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

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