

The Hon Karen Andrews MP

Minister for Industry, Science and Technology

Industry consortium to manufacture 2000 ventilators

9 April 2020

A group of Australian manufacturing companies and engineering firms will work together to produce 2,000 invasive ventilators in Australia as part of the nation's response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Federal Government has reached a \$31.3 million agreement with Victorian company Grey Innovation, which is leading an industry consortium to produce the ventilators.

Minister for Industry, Science and Technology Karen Andrews said Grey Innovation and their cohort of industry partners are stepping up to meet the challenge of this unprecedented pandemic.

"This is another great example of Australian industry and the private sector working with our Government to ensure critical supply of medical equipment during the outbreak of this virus," Minister Andrews said.

"This deal demonstrates the power of bringing Aussie manufacturers and clinicians together and is also a reflection of the highly advanced manufacturing capability that exists in our country.

"It also shows the incredible collaborative spirit that's been on display as we respond to this unprecedented pandemic. Companies which are normally in competition are working together for the greater good."

This contract builds on the extensive work already done to secure more ventilators, including agreement with another local manufacturer and our private hospitals.

Grey Innovation Executive Chair Jefferson Harcourt said his company is proud to be a part of Australia's overall strategy to ensure adequate supply of lifesaving ventilators to meet demand during the COVID-19 crisis.

"Victoria has the highest concentration of leading engineering and manufacturing companies in Australia, and as such, we are well placed to work together to build the Notus emergency invasive ventilators as quickly as possible," Mr Harcourt said.

"We thank the Federal and Victorian Governments and the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre for their support of the vision and rapid response to get the program under way, and are overwhelmed by the willingness of our industry colleagues to respond in this critical hour of need."

The contract with Grey Innovation builds on \$500,000 support from the Victorian Government for the project's feasibility stage.

The supply of ventilators is set to start in June, with the 2000 machines expected to be produced by the end of July.

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