



Steve Nixon <steve.nixon.viamed@googlemail.com>

Pulling back key components to the UK

1 message

Steve Nixon <steve.nixon@viamed.co.uk>
Reply-To: steve.nixon@viamed.co.uk
To: Ged W <ged.wilkinson@nsic.gov.uk>
Bcc: Derek Lamb <derek.lamb@viamed.co.uk>

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Ref. Pulling back key components to the UK

Dear Ged

Our discussion last night gave me food for thought, I am going to look into the feasibility of bringing back some components and accessories back to the UK under our control. I can start to try and do this soon or wait until the current crises has subsided

If we did this, we would have more control and secure access for production in the UK. If viable it would make sense to try and maintain an emergency stockpile of parts, just in case we encounter COVID19 Mk 2, 3...

We have several good moulding companies within Yorkshire/Lancashire, but we will have to see if it feasible and commercially viable to duplicate tooling. In the past it has been very expensive for us to design and generate tooling. Also, over the past few years we have taken a commercial battering from the EU directives/standards, as well from the auditors from our Notified Body. Traditionally tooling in the UK is expensive, but the actual moulding process is comparable and we would have the security of it being to hand and greatly reduce the risk of it being copied elsewhere. Commercially we have been trying to compete with the likes of Germany, who receive assistance and support from their government and the EU in terms of: grants, subsidies, personnel. And of course it is extremely difficult as far as China is concerned, with their extremely low production costs. In the past we have been bitten by them copying our designs.

In regard to the current situation, instead of sending the oxygen sensors, accessories and parts via couriers, we are going to transport the them the production sites ourselves. After all the effort and in view of the emergency we want to reduce risks, the sensors need to be installed in ventilators ASAP. In view of this is it possible to get the 'key worker' paperwork that we discussed from your department, just in case we get stopped by the police.

Regards

Steve

Steve Nixon
Director - Viamed Ltd.

Office: +44 (0)1535 634542
Mobile: +44 (0)7850 252267

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