

## Press Release

### Freudenberg starts mask production

#### Combining forces in the crisis

**Weinheim, May 4, 2020. Freudenberg, the global technology group, has started producing mouth-nose masks for end-consumers. The masks under the brand name “Collectex” will be available from May 11 in the Vileda online shop and from retail partners of the Freudenberg Home and Cleaning Solutions (FHCS) Business Group – initially only in Germany.**

In the past weeks, three Freudenberg Business Groups – Freudenberg Filtration Technologies, Freudenberg Home and Cleaning Solutions and Freudenberg Performance Materials – have combined their expertise in technical nonwovens, filter media and distribution. Together, the Freudenberg specialists have set up inhouse mask production in a very short space of time, initially delivering the needed volumes to Freudenberg sites. “Our objective was to fulfill our responsibility to our employees and society. We acted quickly, expanded our capacity and invested in production equipment for the manufacture of mouth-nose masks,” says Dr. Mohsen Sohi, CEO of the Freudenberg Group.

In addition to mask quality, the fair and needs-based distribution of the masks is important to Freudenberg. Limiting sales on the Vileda online shop to a maximum order of two boxes per online customer will help ensure fair distribution and guarantee a wide

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dispersion that will benefit as many people as possible in the time of crisis.

Mask production is located in Germany and has been up and running since late April. Freudenberg Home and Cleaning Solutions is selling the masks under the name “Collectex”. In contrast to the now common industrial and privately sewn cotton masks, the Freudenberg masks are made from a high quality, triple-layered filter medium.

This filter medium is made from a high-tech nonwoven, which is also manufactured in Germany. The materials are processed into masks in newly acquired production lines launched in phases at Freudenberg Filtration Technologies – at first for the German market. Freudenberg is planning to expand capacity in the next few weeks to the point where roughly a million masks can be produced a day in four shifts around the clock seven days a week. The technology group will also continue to deliver media for the production of face masks to professional converters and existing customers.

Currently, efforts are also underway to produce masks in North America for the local market. Japan Vilene Company – a Freudenberg Business Group – has been producing masks for the Asian market, primarily Japan. However, these products are subject to individual countries' COVID-19 export restrictions.

#### **About the Freudenberg Group**

Freudenberg is a global technology group that strengthens its customers and society long-term through forward-looking innovations. Together with its partners, customers and research institutions, the Freudenberg Group develops leading-edge technologies and excellent products and services for more than 40 markets and for thousands of applications: Seals, vibration control components, technical textiles, filters, cleaning technologies and products, specialty chemicals and medical products.

Strength of innovation, strong customer orientation, diversity, and team spirit are the cornerstones of the Group. The 170-year-old company holds strong to

its core values: a commitment to excellence, reliability and pro-active, responsible action.

In 2019, the Freudenberg Group employed approximately 49,000 people in some 60 countries worldwide and generated sales of more than €9.4 billion. For more information, please visit [www.freudenberg.com](http://www.freudenberg.com)