

## **US Meltblown: Doing Our Part to Meet Skyrocketing Demand for Reliable Sources of PPE**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented demand for personal protective equipment, revealing the unsettling fact that the U.S. supply of PPE is almost completely controlled by offshore manufacturers. The risks of that have become apparent as widespread delays and shortages—as well as quality issues—have occurred.

The president and CEO of Showa USA, Richard Heppell, explained the situation in a recent article in *Industry Week*: “The United States now finds itself in a drastically insecure sourcing situation [in terms of PPE]. It has been heavily dependent on Asian manufacturing to resupply its PPE stockpile as the United States has limited means of actually producing PPE domestically—thereby positioning itself to fall victim to stockpilers and price gougers as the need for medical-grade equipment becomes more dire. ... less than 1% of the total global supply of PPE is actually made in the United States. More than 60% of the world’s PPE is made in Malaysia, with the majority of the remaining supply coming from Thailand and China. When the entire world is in high demand for a product that is concentrated through the bottleneck of these east Asian countries, it puts nations like the U.S. in a severely disadvantageous position of paying for a low-supply (and at times low quality) product at a highly inflated cost. ... As the pandemic stretches on, U.S. frontline workers will need the support of domestic manufacturers to keep citizens safe and healthy. We can rise to meet this unprecedented challenge if we focus now on fortifying our ability to respond to COVID-19 and future outbreaks like it and that starts by producing and buying American personal protective equipment.”

US Meltblown was created specifically to meet this dire need for American-made PPE material and is proud to be a new domestic manufacturer of a vital ingredient, melt blown polypropylene. This material is the critical filter medium used in medical grade face masks and gowns. USMB polypropylene meets the criteria for use in masks rated N95 and higher and is static charged to provide additional protection. Quality is assured through rigorous and individualized in-house testing of each roll. USMB began production in September 2020 at its facility in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

“I agree that it is crucial for the United States to have its own trustworthy, sustained source of material supply for personal protective equipment,” said US Meltblown Founder and CEO Robert Sires. “What this really comes down to is that we know we’re in a dangerous health environment. Why would we choose to risk our safety by using questionable PPE products? We created US Meltblown to help meet the need for reliable PPE ethically, by producing high quality nonwoven melt blown filter material. We use polypropylene sourced from U.S. manufacturers, and the material is being made by American workers using equipment that has been designed, manufactured, and machined in the U.S. with advanced machining techniques used in domestic high tech industries. Our factory runs 24/7/365 to produce at maximum capacity.”

US Meltblown is America’s trusted manufacturing source for critical filter material, setting the standard for this vital material used in personal protective equipment such as medical grade masks. We continue to fulfill our vision to protect families, healthcare workers, first responders, and workers in industry with American-made melt blown nonwoven polypropylene. US Meltblown is proud to provide this top quality critical filtering medium made in Florida from

raw materials produced in the United States and processed on equipment that is built in the U.S. and operated by American workers. USMB polypropylene meets criteria for use in masks rated N95 and higher and is static charged to provide additional protection. Quality is assured through rigorous in-house testing. We sell by the master roll or slitted (175mm or 260mm). For more information, contact Ty Whitacre at 1-260-438-4491 / [TWhitacre@usmeltblown.com](mailto:TWhitacre@usmeltblown.com) or visit [www.usmeltblown.com](http://www.usmeltblown.com).