



News Release

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FORTAI developing a COVID-19 PPE sanitization solution

(SUDBURY, ON, CANADA) – Technology manufacturing company [FORTAI](#) is using its skills to convert a mining supply chain and logistics product, called the SmartCube™, into one that sanitizes personal protective equipment (PPE) or other devices used by front-line and essential workers across a range of industries.

The company will bring its Sanitization SmartCube into production within 30 days by leveraging its proven SmartCube technology, a powerful ecosystem of partners, and expertise from the [INOVINTA Group of Companies](#), which includes [BESTECH](#) and [SHYFTinc](#).

FORTAI developed its initial mining-built SmartCube as a mobile inventory management solution designed to allow for safe containerization and transportation of materials, including explosives. Due to COVID-19, the company is redirecting its resources to create sanitization chambers for PPE, clothing, or other tools. By using the SmartCube technology, users can track and log PPE as it is sanitized.

[Trang Tran-Valade](#), FORTAI President, outlined the importance of the project, saying: "this technology will ensure confidence in PPE for front line and essential workers and meet the needs of a temporary new normal. The mining industry is familiar with creating safe workplaces in challenging environments. Our goal is to deploy Sanitization SmartCubes in hospitals, mines, or other workplaces with PPE requirements. Our solution will enable workers to easily sanitize everything from PPE to tools. The great thing is that SmartCubes are scalable; we can right-size them for different workplaces and sites. Through increased vigilance, social distancing, and safe sanitization of materials, we can help our country, community, and families."

Given the urgency of this project, FORTAI and the INOVINTA Group of Companies is extending the call to other researchers, companies, and medical professionals who are willing to work on the project. FORTAI is already working with Laurentian University and the Perdue Central Analytical Facility (PCAF).

According to Dr. Tammy Eger, Interim Vice-President Research, "Laurentian University is pleased to explore opportunities to collaborate with FORTAI on the development of the Sanitization SmartCube. There are a number of researchers at Laurentian University interested in applying their knowledge to COVID-19 projects and technologies."



INOVINTA CEO Marc Boudreau said, "the idea for the Sanitization SmartCube was sparked in a video conference call involving the heads of our group of companies, BESTECH, SHYFTinc, and FORTAI. What drove the decision to pivot our business was a discussion of how people we know and love are being affected by this virus."

For the group, the decision to refocus resources is personal, said Boudreau. "We have employees whose family members are working in the ICU and facing this challenge head-on. All of our core businesses are still actively working, but we could not just go on like 'it's business as usual,' when together, we have a unique and innovative team of experts, technologies, and partnerships that can make a real difference. We need to do our part."

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