

Kim, Sabrina

From: Kim, Sabrina
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 9:27 AM
To: Church, Leslie (SPAC/PSPC); Murdock, Kelly (SPAC/PSPC); Dunn, Ryan (Ext.); Chan, Marco (IC); Garneau, Vincent; Zimmerman, Shannon
Cc: Stickney, Matt
Subject: GE & ventilators

Hello – GE is ramping up production quite a bit but it is unclear if this is for domestic purposes because Trump is holding their feet to the fire:

Separately, GE and Ford engineers are working together to boost production at a GE plant in Madison, Wisconsin, of a GE ventilator, different from the model licensed from Airon.

GE expects to double ventilator output from the Wisconsin plant during the second quarter, Tom Westrick, GE Healthcare's vice president for quality, said during a call with reporters on Monday.

Understand we have an order with them for 500 ventilators. We're wondering if someone in your office has been in touch with GE recently, and if they've shared anything about how our order is going / given any insight into whether President Trump will DPA them? May be worth a call if not.

If / when you do talk to GE, it would be helpful to know if other jurisdictions in Canada have substantial orders with them too beyond PSPC.

Thanks!
Sabrina

~ ~ ~

Ford, GE to produce 50,000 ventilators in 100 days

Reuters

Ford Motor Co said on Monday it will produce 50,000 ventilators over the next 100 days at a plant in Michigan in cooperation with General Electric's healthcare unit, and can then build 30,000 per month as needed to treat patients afflicted with the coronavirus.

Ford said the simplified ventilator design, which is licensed by GE Healthcare from Florida-based Airon Corp and has been cleared by the Food and Drug Administration, can meet the needs of most COVID-19 patients and relies on air pressure without the need for electricity.

Officials in states hard hit by the pandemic have pleaded with the Trump administration and manufacturers to speed up production of ventilators to cope with a surge in patients struggling to breathe. Hospitals in New York already are using one ventilator to sustain two patients. New Orleans has a fraction of the ventilators it needs for a surge of COVID-19 patients, Louisiana officials said.

On Friday, President Donald Trump said he would invoke powers under the Defense Production Act to direct manufacturers, including Ford and General Motors Co, to produce ventilators.

On Monday, the head of the United Auto Workers and other officials compared the auto industry's effort to build ventilators to Detroit's conversion to bomber production during the World War Two.

Ford said it plans to begin production of ventilators at a plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan, deploying 500 United Auto Workers employees.

It said it plans to start production at the facility the week of April 20. That is roughly when New York officials expect the peak of COVID-19 cases to hit their state.

Ventilators built by Ford, GM and others could be used in other parts of the United States where the peak case loads are expected later.

GM said Sunday it plans to produce up to 10,000 ventilators a month by this summer at a plant in Kokomo, Indiana.

The Ypsilanti workers will be stationed at a safe distance apart and will be screened for symptoms of coronavirus infection before they enter the plant, Ford officials said.

“We’re using and deploying a whole host of technologies to keep workers safe,” said Adrian Price, director of global manufacturing core engineering for Ford. The safety procedures will be adapted from work Ford and the UAW have been doing to prepare for the automaker to reopen other U.S. factories, Price said.

Separately, GE and Ford engineers are working together to boost production at a GE plant in Madison, Wisconsin, of a GE ventilator, different from the model licensed from Airon.

GE expects to double ventilator output from the Wisconsin plant during the second quarter, Tom Westrick, GE Healthcare’s vice president for quality, said during a call with reporters on Monday.

Sabrina Kim

Issues Advisor / Conseillère en enjeux

Office of the Prime Minister / Cabinet du premier ministre

613-795-7803