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Date: - 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Ref: - Members of the UK card industry unite to help manufacture Personal Protective Equipment**

Cardel, a UK based supplier to the Global card industry, and leading smart card manufacturers Nitecrest and allpay have worked in partnership with Card specialist consultants Smart Industries, to complete a program to supply protective face visors to the NHS.

The Production of the visors was split across all 3 manufacturer sites with each company taking on responsibility for a specialist element of the visor production before final assembly was carried out by AAC Cyroma.

Materials, production capacity and all time invested in the project were provided free of charge by all companies involved.

The final production also utilised the skills of diverse partners who do not normally operate in this market, all of whom also gave their resources free of charge, including Oaktree Caravans and FSG Tool and Die.

Speaking about the project Marshall Haldane, Cardel CEO said ***"It was great to be able to give something back to the NHS, I was really impressed with the way everyone involved pulled together to make this happen in a little over a week. None of the companies involved specialise in this type of product but we realised that by cooperating we could answer this call from the NHS. I will be proactively sharing the production steps we went through with our global customer base of card suppliers to see if they would also wish to help their local health givers, utilising any spare capacity they have as the world reopens."***

The Senior NHS Practitioner who instigated the project commented ***"I'd like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for the efforts that have been made over the past few weeks. This has assisted myself and other frontline staff in fighting the Coronavirus (COVID 19) outbreak by supplying full face visors. What a tremendous team they have proven to be. There is little doubt that the kindness of their actions has and will continue to protect GPs, nurses, receptionists and care staff alike, helping to not only protect from the virus but to deter the spread at the same time."***

***I would like to thank the many people and companies who were involved in this, for the kindness shown and generosity of spirit in this effort to help protect us on the front line”***

Hywel Price, Smart Industries Ltd. Director said ***“We received the initial enquiry from a long-term contact and friend of the business to source some face visor plastic. When we discussed the intended use case we quickly realised that we knew our smart card contacts could support this requirement and help to get it done. Darrell Williams led the project and worked with the newly formed company Smart PPE Ltd to ensure that the product got CE approval to supply these critical PPE items to healthcare workers across the UK. We continue to work with all parties in the supply chain required to make the visors.”***

Ronnie Hart, Nitecrest Group Chairman, also expressed his pride in being involved ***“I am very proud of Nitecrest and the rest of the partners efforts on this program. It was a fantastic group effort to achieve this in such a short time scale. Nitecrest were very happy to provide support for this emergency production and we are already producing additional materials for further face visors to be completed.”***

Michelle Pacey, allpay Cards Director said ***“allpay’s core business is supporting the financial services requirements of the UK public sector including the production of emergency prepaid cards for local authorities dealing with COVID 19. We were happy to extend this support to the NHS. We are very supportive to the local community and we saw this as another opportunity to give something back.”***