

Vent-Axia Named a 'UK Business Hero' for its COVID-19 Response

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Vent-Axia (<https://www.vent-axia.com/>) has been named as a 'UK Business Hero' by the British Chamber of Commerce as part of the Chamber's campaign to recognise the incredible work UK businesses are undertaking, in the most challenging of years. Nominated by Sussex Chamber of Commerce, the leading British ventilation manufacturer was awarded this prestigious accolade for its valuable work supplying ventilation to COVID-19 hospital wards and field hospitals in unprecedented timescales, throughout lockdown and beyond. The Crawley-based company is delighted to be one of only 399 UK businesses to be given this national recognition.

The British Chamber of Commerce 'UK Business Heroes' (<https://www.britishchambers.org.uk/page/uk-business-heroes>) campaign is paying tribute to Vent-Axia and other nominated businesses by giving them its UK Business Heroes stamp which demonstrates they have gone the extra mile during the Coronavirus outbreak. The initiative is supported by HRH Countess of Wessex who has thanked the UK Business Heroes for their incredible work.

Playing its part in the national response against Coronavirus, Vent-Axia supplied fans to a number of COVID-19 hospital wards and field hospitals during lockdown to provide good levels of ventilation, essential in such environments due to the airborne transmission of the virus. Sites included the flagship NHS Nightingale Hospital in London, Kent & Canterbury NHS Trust's COVID-19 wards, and the Rainbow field hospitals at Bangor University and Deeside Leisure Centre, among others. In these difficult times the construction industry pulled together, with Vent-Axia part of the hard-working team that made it possible to enable these essential field hospitals to be up and running in an unprecedented time scale. For example, for the London NHS Nightingale Hospital Vent-Axia ensured its fans were delivered directly to the hospital site within just three hours of the order, an extraordinary delivery time.

"We are thrilled to be named a 'UK Business Hero' by the British Chamber of Commerce for our work during the Coronavirus crisis and feel honoured to be one of only 399 companies across the country to receive this accolade. This national award is great recognition for all the hard work by our staff across the company during a challenging time," said Jenny Smith, Head of Marketing at Vent-Axia. "We were able to meet tight deadlines during the pandemic as we remained open for business as an essential service throughout lockdown forming part of a crucial supply chain that made critical projects possible, such as the NHS Nightingale Hospital in London. At Vent-Axia we're committed to improving indoor air quality and public health so it was essential for us to pull together to help in the pandemic response. Thank you to Sussex Chamber of Commerce for nominating us for this prestigious award."

Ventilation has now been proven to be a key weapon in the fight against COVID-19, helping to reduce transmission of the virus indoors. It is riskier to be inside than outside a building because of a lack of airflow. Public Health England's guidance 'COVID-19: epidemiology, virology and clinical features' acknowledges that airborne transmission can occur in 'poorly ventilated' spaces. It's therefore vital to dilute the virus in the air inside through effective ventilation and increased airflow both in homes and buildings.

In addition to supplying vital ventilation equipment where it was needed most throughout the pandemic,

Vent-Axia also embarked on a critical communications campaign; and a hospitality campaign to help pubs and restaurants re-open safely. As the nation locked down, Vent-Axia's #StayHealthy social media campaign provided guidance on improving indoor air quality and creating a healthy environment while working from home. Vent-Axia also provided critical communications commenting and sharing the latest Government and industry guidance on the virus, while also adding its own ventilation expertise.

Following the Government's COVID-19 Return to Work Recovery Strategy, Vent-Axia's expert ventilation advice helped businesses prepare for a return to work. As Vent-Axia's heritage was in pub ventilation before the smoking ban in 2007, the company felt particularly well-placed to help this sector. Vent-Axia therefore ran an information campaign specifically for the pubs and bars sector, helping them reopen their businesses whilst keeping staff and customers safe by helping reduce virus transmission.

Vent-Axia is continuing to offer support and ventilation expertise to help in the fight against Coronavirus and has recently launched a webpage and brochure offering essential guidance on the positive effect of ventilation in tackling COVID-19. Bringing together all the helpful information that it has been communicating since the start of lockdown, the useful guide and webpage provides the industry with valuable information on how ventilation can help during the pandemic and beyond - all in one place. The website and brochure, called "The Effect of Ventilation on COVID-19" explains the benefits of ventilation during the COVID-19 pandemic and gives guidance on why indoor ventilation is important to reduce virus transmission. Visit (<https://www.vent-axia.com/dilutethevirus>) to find out more and to download the free brochure.

For further information on all products and services offered by Vent-Axia telephone 0344 856 0590 or visit www.vent-axia.com.

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Notes for Editors

Boasting over 80 years' experience, Vent-Axia is the ventilation sector's clear leader, chief innovator and forerunner in developing energy efficient products that help provide good indoor air quality. Committed to improving indoor air quality and comfort in both homes and buildings, Vent-Axia provides the sector's most comprehensive choice from any single manufacturer. Vent-Axia's range covers not just air movement and ventilation technologies but heat recovery, electric heating, hand dryers, cooling and clean-air systems for residential, commercial, public sector and industrial applications.

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