The PAPRa
Powered, Comfortable N95
Mission statement:
Affordable, Comfortable Breathing Protection
The problem(s)

1. Regular people cannot get N95s that easily fit their face and give proper protection against small particles like viruses, ash, and other pollutants
2. Well fitting respirators have side-effects: headache, skin issues, bruising
3. N95 Respirators require annual training to provide adequate protection
4. People with facial hair are not protected well utilizing N95 respirators
5. Powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs) are very expensive, specialized, and generally not available
The solution

We have created a powered respirator that is comfortable, affordable, and can be made readily available.
The team

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PhD in Biomedical Engineering from UCLA, Distinguished Data Scientist at Ticketmaster

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MSME Smart Product Design from Stanford, Technology Consultant, Named Inventor on 38 Patents, Awarded 4 Technical Emmy Awards

Kevin Butler, MBA  
Director  
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MBA in Program Management Global Manager Consultant at Olympus
**Milestones**

 Prototypes are passing N95 and have many hours of battery life; time to begin Design For Manufacturing

- **Mar 2021**
  3DP Prototypes begin passing N95 but require further refinement for NIOSH standards

- **April 2022**
  Manufacturing facilities and filter material search begin

- **October 2022**
  NIOSH submission and schedule site visit

- **Mar 2022**
  Circuitry complete, secure funding, DFM begins

- **July 2022**
  Presubmission NIOSH meeting

- **November 2022**
  Site visit assuming site is FDA regulated, ISO certified
Appendix
How it works

1. The fan pulls air through an H13 HEPA filter and pushes that air to a face mask
2. The positive pressure in the system means our device is more comfortable and works with beards
3. Positive airflow prevents unfiltered air from entering the mask and making you sick
4. The face mask will have filters for passive N95 respiration if the power is off, allowing us to target NIOSH APF 10 certification, which is a lower barrier to entry
The technology: H13 HEPA + Fans
Filter validation is critical. H13 HEPA filtration is not an easy standard to meet. The main filter may last for up to 6 months, while filters in the mask need more frequent replacement. After initially purchasing the device, filters are the recurring revenue source driving continuous growth.

Similar devices cost at least $1.2k. Our prototype material cost is $75 and can be brought lower through mass production, so we can keep unit cost down to achieve more market penetration.
Why now?

COVID-19 is still a threat
Sufferers of Long COVID and the immune compromised need devices to go outside
Wildfires are increasing and a persistent risk, creating smoke hazards for everyone
Future flus and pandemics are inevitable