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Lacerta Group answers the call for face masks

By Beth Braverman

Pivoting to make a new product quickly has always been a hallmark of Lacerta Group Inc., a family-owned plastic packaging manufacturer based in Mansfield, Mass.

But never has the company shifted gears as quickly as it did last March. Co-founder and principal Mostafa Lotfi, 56, received a mass email from a doctor friend requesting help in securing face shields to protect against infection from COVID-19 patients he was treating.

Lacerta Group focuses mostly on custom plastic packaging for a variety of products, such as grocery items and consumer electronics. Mostafa, 56, was sure his company could retool its equipment to produce the kinds of face shields needed by frontline workers — from doctors to supermarket employees — across the country.

The email came in on a Friday. Mostafa designed a prototype shield over the weekend. By Monday the shield was in production. After a few tiny tweaks Lacerta started sending it to hospitals. Then the company started making more.



Mory (Left) and Ali Lotfi

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