



Conference

Warsaw, 15 October 2019

**Novel technological innovations  
for occupational safety and health**

## **CHALLENGES WITH BRINGING SMART PPE ON THE MARKET – THE GAP BETWEEN REGULATION AND END USERS**



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## PPE vs. SMART PPE

*Firefighters PPE today*

**2 minutes** time for  
equipping

*Firefighters PPE of the future*

<http://www.fire-cat.eu>



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## WHAT IS A SMART PPE?

*Smart Fabrics, also known as smart garments, smart clothing, electronic textiles, smart textiles, or E-textiles, can be defined as fabrics that can **sense** and **react** to external environment via a pre-defined **control mechanism** or **cognitive driven behavior**.*



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## A SMART PPE should be able to...

*...sense the physiological parameters of the user*

*...react to external harsh environment with aim to increase the safety of  
the user*

***IN A REAL TIME***

*via integrated*

***control system with a cognitive decision-making  
algorithm***



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## Main requirements of a **SMART PPE** are ...

***...fast equipping possibility*** (*inside 2 min*)

***...control IN A REAL TIME*** (*challenge in the IT technology*)

***...availability from the price perspective*** (*challenge for the PPE manufacturers*)

*...standardization issue*

*...maintaining issue*

*...after sales service*

*...support from end users / public authorities!*

*TENDER!*



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# Main challenges for manufacturers of a SMART PPE are ...

## Materials & production technologies

### Compatibility & Cost-efficiency

PRICE  
STANDARDS

DURABILITY  
ENERGY  
FLEXIBILITY  
WASHABILITY  
COMMUNICATION  
FASHION &  
COMFORT  
ECO-DESIGN  
COST  
SAFETY &  
PROTECTION



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# SMART PPE: What to do with the PROTOTYPES?

Idea stage ✓

**Problem/solution fit:** it is time to create the optimal solution

**Product/market fit:** test the business model and pricing strategy  
market validation

PRICE  
STANDAR  
DS

**Scaling:** money and people

UPSCALING - smart „factory, serial production



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# SMART PPE: INNOVATIVE Sales approach?

<https://www.ppeb2b.com/>

The screenshot shows the homepage of PPEB2B.COM. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for WORKWEAR, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, CLEANING RAGS, HYGIENE, SIGNALING, FIRST AID, ABSORBENTS, and BRANDS. To the right of the navigation bar are buttons for 'REGISTER' and 'LOGIN WITH YOUR ACCOUNT'. A search bar with the placeholder 'Search the entire store ...' and a magnifying glass icon is positioned above the main content area. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text 'The right PPE for the right application at the best price' and 'More than 5.000 items available from stock, for every specialism and sharp price.' Below the banner are two calls-to-action: 'Not a customer at PBMonline.be yet?' with a right-pointing arrow, and 'Already known? Login with your account'. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Popular categories' with a dropdown menu showing 'Personal protective equipment' with a right-pointing arrow. To the right of this are four categories: 'RESPIRATORY PROTECTION' (represented by a mask icon), 'HEARING PROTECTION' (represented by headphones icon), 'HEAD PROTECTION' (represented by a yellow hard hat icon), and 'EYE AND FACE PROTECTION' (represented by safety glasses icon).



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## **SMART PPE: Creativity in business models is welcome**

**THANK YOU**

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