

Chang said that the increased demand for nitrile gloves, combined with VIP's increased manufacturing capacity, would hold the company in good stead for the full 2020-21 financial year.

"In the second half we will have much more gloves to sell, with capacity of more than double the year before by the end of the financial year, and we believe the second half will be better than the first half," he said.

Confidence boosted by top end

VIP's optimism is backed up by recent half-year results communicated by Ansell Ltd (ASX:ANN), which makes PPE including gloves.

Ansell's half-year report saw profit rise 62 per cent to US\$106.5 million, and revenue boosted by 25 per cent to US\$937.8 million.

Ansell CEO Magnus Nicolin predicted demand for products such as nitrile gloves would continue to grow even after the pandemic was brought under global control through vaccinations.

"We expect that COVID-19 will continue to impact the world for some time and once the pandemic is under control, elevated demand for our products is likely to persist, whether due to enhanced safety practices at plants and hospitals, better protection awareness in emerging markets, more research and testing activities worldwide or the potential need for annual COVID-19 vaccinations," he said.

- Daniel Paproth

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