**Collaboration sparks innovation**

Companies are leveraging innovation to survive in an economic downturn, deal needed supplies to maintain the flow of goods and services in the midst of great uncertainty and advance research to better understand the department, but a mindset that lends agility in even the most unexpected conditions.

### The state of collaboration

A survey on innovation revealed that collaboration between business leaders and all employee types, including engineers, suppliers, customers, and third-party facilities or laboratories, is relatively low.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collaboration category</th>
<th>Engineer/technician</th>
<th>Supplier/manufacturer</th>
<th>Customer</th>
<th>Third party facility or laboratory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration clarity index</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pharmaceutical and medical devices</td>
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<td>Medical testing</td>
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<td>Computer software and hardware</td>
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However, the global crisis has sparked the collaboration of multiple stakeholders, academic institutions, medical device manufacturers, and others to solve daunting business and societal challenges.

### Keys to an innovation mindset

**Anticipate and minimize disruption**

Disruptions, whether from a global pandemic or a major supply chain event, are inevitable. Companies are recognizing that a proactive approach that emphasizes preparation and flexibility is essential.

**Support innovative people and behaviors**

Companies that foster a culture of innovation encourage new thinking, new roles, and new ways of working. This epidemic has provided an opportunity to demonstrate innovation when it’s needed most. Companies must establish an innovation ecosystem and prepare themselves to innovate in response.

**Establish an innovation exception**

In a time of need, every company needs the flexibility to do things differently. Companies that recognize and embrace the potential for new opportunities are better equipped to emerge stronger.

**Enable innovation with technology**

Innovative companies, especially those that already have strong digital capabilities, have reaped the benefits of digital transformation. Companies that are able to access and assess information more quickly, reallocate resources more efficiently and react to changing market conditions in a timely manner are in a position to succeed.

**3D Printed PPE**

Facing shortages of people and materials, academic institutions have dedicated their own resources to leverage their resources to meet critical needs.

**Virtual training, monitoring, safety and compliance audits**

Virtual training and monitoring are providing critical paths forward with safety standards and ensure continued compliance in a world of social distancing.

**Retooling factories**

Manufacturers of everything from cars and apparel to beer have redirected their facilities, resources and staff to production to make ventilators, collaboration teams have dedicated their efforts.

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Sources:

To learn more about innovation and safety, visit UL.com/Insights

- https://www.four.fitted
d- https://www.three.fitted
- https://www.two.fitted
- https://www.one.fitted

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