WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An interface assembly, comprising:

a mask comprising a seal that surrounds and delivers a flow of breathing gas to a mouth and/or nose of a user;

a headgear that secures the mask to the face of the user, the headgear comprising relatively rigid portions that contact the cheeks of the user and support the mask relative to the face of the user, the relatively rigid portions having sufficient rigidity to maintain a position of the mask and limit compression of the seal in response to tightening of the headgear,

wherein the headgear further comprises an upper arm or strap extending rearwardly from each of the relatively rigid portions toward a location generally above the user's ear, and

wherein the headgear further comprises a rear halo portion surrounding a parietal region of the user's head and coupled to the upper arms or straps, wherein a portion of the rear halo portion, the upper arms or straps, and the mask cooperate to form a front halo portion.

~~2. The interface assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a cheek pad positioned on at least a skin-contacting side of each of the relatively rigid portions.~~

~~3. The interface assembly of Claims 1 or 2, wherein the cheek pad is contoured.~~

~~4. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 1-3, wherein the cheek pad surrounds the relatively rigid portion.~~

~~5. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 1-4, wherein the headgear further comprises an upper arm or strap extending rearwardly from each of the relatively rigid portions toward a location generally above the user's ear.~~

~~6. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 1-5, wherein the headgear further comprises a rear halo portion surrounding a parietal region of the user's head and coupled to the upper arms or straps, wherein a portion of the rear halo portion, the upper arms or straps, and the mask cooperate to form a front halo portion.~~

~~7.~~2.The interface assembly of ~~any one of Claims 1-6~~Claim 1, wherein the headgear comprises a crown strap, which forms a part of each of the front halo portion and the rear halo portion, and a rear strap, which forms a part of the rear halo portion.

~~8.~~3.The interface assembly of any one of Claims 1-2~~7~~, wherein at least portions of the upper arm, the crown strap and the rear strap are constructed from a relatively rigid material or a relatively non-stretch material.

~~9.~~4.The interface assembly of any one of Claims 1-3~~8~~, wherein the headgear comprises a pair of rigid sections, each rigid section comprising an upper arm, a portion of the crown strap and a portion of the rear strap, wherein each of the crown strap and the rear strap comprises adjustment arrangements that connect the rigid sections to one another and permit adjustment of the front halo portion and the rear halo portion.

~~10.~~5. The interface assembly of Claim ~~4~~9, wherein the adjustment arrangements comprise flexible straps.

~~11. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 1-10, wherein each of the rigid sections is covered by a soft material padding.~~

~~12. The interface assembly of Claim 11, wherein the soft material padding is overmolded onto the rigid sections.~~

~~13. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 1-12, wherein the mask is supported relative to the headgear by a rotational coupling.~~

~~14. The interface assembly of Claim 13, wherein the mask can be secured in a rotational position relative to the headgear.~~

~~15. The interface assembly of Claim 14, wherein the mask is secured in the rotational position by a lock or detent mechanism incorporated into the rotational coupling.~~

~~16. The interface assembly of Claim 14, wherein the mask is secured in the rotational position by a strap of the headgear.~~

~~17. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 1-16, further comprising at least one quick release mechanism that permits separation of two portions of the interface assembly to open or increase a circumference of the interface assembly.~~

~~18. The interface assembly of Claim 17, wherein the quick release mechanism comprises a tether between the two portions of the interface assembly.~~

~~19. The interface assembly of Claim 18, wherein the tether is elastic.~~

~~20. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 17-19, wherein the quick-release mechanism comprises a clip that connects the headgear to the mask.~~

~~21. The interface assembly of Claim 20, wherein the clip defines at least two spaced engagement points with the mask.~~

~~22. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 20-21, further comprising a magnetic coupling that guides the clip into position relative to the mask.~~

~~23. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 18-19, wherein the quick-release mechanism comprises a clip that connects the headgear to the mask, and wherein the tether is hidden between the clip and the mask when the clip is secured to the mask.~~

~~24. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 17-19, wherein the quick-release mechanism comprises a release buckle.~~

~~25. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 1-24, wherein a position of the seal is adjustable relative to a frame or support structure of the mask to which the relatively rigid portions are connected.~~

~~26. The interface assembly of Claim 25, further comprising a dial adjuster that adjusts the position of the seal.~~

~~27. An interface assembly, comprising:~~

~~a mask comprising a seal that surrounds and delivers a flow of breathing gas to a mouth and/or nose of a user;~~

~~a headgear that secures the mask to the user's face;~~

~~a closed loop adjustment mechanism that couples a first portion of the interface assembly to a second portion of the interface assembly and is movable between a contracted orientation and an elongated orientation to vary an overall circumference of the interface assembly while maintaining a closed loop, wherein, in the contracted orientation, the mask is supported against the face of the user and, in the elongated orientation, the interface assembly can be applied to or removed from the head of the user;~~

~~wherein at least a portion of the closed loop adjustment mechanism is located on the mask.~~

~~28. The interface assembly of Claim 27, wherein the closed loop adjustment mechanism comprises a loop that forms a portion of the circumference of the interface assembly, wherein the loop can be secured to the mask at first and second spaced locations to define a first section length, and wherein the loop can be disconnected from the second location to define a second section length that is greater than the first section length to increase the circumference of the interface assembly.~~

~~29. The interface assembly of Claim 28, wherein the second location is a retention cleat that the loop can be looped around.~~

~~30. The interface assembly of Claim 28, wherein the second location is an opening or bar that is engaged by a clip connected to the loop.~~

~~31. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 28-30, wherein the first location is a friction guide through which the loop passes, wherein the friction guide frictionally engages the loop to maintain a desired relative position between the loop and the mask in response to normal operational forces.~~

~~32. The interface assembly of Claim 27, wherein the closed loop adjustment mechanism comprises a clip that connects the headgear to the mask.~~

~~33. The interface assembly of Claim 32, wherein the clip defines at least two spaced engagement points with the mask.~~

~~34. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 32-33, further comprising a magnetic coupling that guides the clip into position relative to the mask.~~

~~35. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 32-34, wherein the closed loop adjustment mechanism comprises a tether between the clip and the mask.~~

~~36. The interface assembly of Claim 35, wherein the tether is elastic.~~

~~37. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 32-36, wherein the closed loop adjustment comprises a clip on each side of the mask and the tether extends between the two clips.~~

~~38. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 35-36, wherein the tether is hidden between the clip and the mask when the clip is secured to the mask.~~

~~39. The interface assembly of Claim 27, wherein the closed loop adjustment mechanism comprises a folding clasp having multiple segments movable between an open position and a closed position.~~

~~40. The interface assembly of Claim 39, wherein at least two segments of the folding clasp are nested in the closed position of the folding clasp.~~

~~41. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 39-40, wherein one of the segments defines a generally U-shape and a second one of the segments is positioned within a central space of the U-shaped segment in a closed position of the folding clasp.~~

~~42. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 39-41, wherein one of the segments is carried by the mask and a second one of the segments is carried by the headgear.~~

~~43. The interface assembly of Claim 42, further comprising a locking adjuster between the second one of the segments and the headgear to permit adjustment of a relative position of the folding clasp and the headgear.~~

~~44. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 39-43, wherein the folding clasp locks in the closed position.~~

~~45. An interface assembly, comprising:~~

~~a mask comprising a seal that surrounds and delivers a flow of breathing gas to a mouth and/or nose of a user;~~

~~a headgear that secures the mask to the user's face, the headgear comprising at least one adjustment loop;~~

~~a sliding buckle that receives a portion of the headgear within a tortuous pathway and is coupled to a portion of the adjustment loop, wherein movement of the sliding buckle along the portion of the headgear alters a size of the adjustment loop to alter an overall size of the headgear.~~

~~46. The interface assembly of Claim 45, further comprising a pull tab coupled to the sliding buckle to facilitate movement of the sliding buckle.~~

~~47. The interface assembly of Claim 46, further comprising a coupler that secures the pull tab relative to the sliding buckle when not in use.~~

~~48. The interface assembly of Claim 47, wherein the coupler is a magnetic coupler.~~

~~49. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 46-48, wherein the pull tab is slidably mounted to the sliding buckle such that the pull tab can move relative to the sliding buckle in a direction of movement of the sliding buckle.~~

~~50. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 45-49, further comprising at least one clip that couples the headgear to the mask.~~

~~51. The interface assembly of Claim 50, wherein the clip is tethered to the mask.~~

~~52. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 50-51, wherein the clip defines at least two spaced engagement points with the mask.~~

~~53. An interface assembly, comprising:~~

~~a mask comprising a seal that surrounds and delivers a flow of breathing gas to a mouth and/or nose of a user;~~

~~a headgear that secures the mask to the user's face, wherein the headgear is constructed from at least two flat portions of material that are connected along sew lines to form a seam, wherein the sew lines of the portions of material do not have the same shape, such that, when connected, tension and/or compression is introduced into the material to provide the headgear with a contoured shape.~~

~~54. The interface assembly of Claim 53, wherein the sew lines are defined by edges of the portions of material.~~

~~55. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 53-54, wherein the connection between the portions extends in a vertical direction along a rear portion of the headgear.~~

~~56.~~6. An interface assembly, comprising:

a mask <u>assembly</u> comprising a seal that surrounds and delivers a flow of breathing gas to a ~~mouth and/or~~ nose of a user;

<u>the seal being configured to seal around a mouth of a user and on an underside of a nose of the user</u>

a headgear that secures the mask to the face of the user, wherein the headgear comprises a rear halo portion surrounding a parietal region of the user's head and wherein the headgear cooperates with the mask to form a front halo portion surrounding a frontal region of the user's head, ~~the headgear comprising a relatively stretchable portion and a relatively non-stretchable portion, wherein the relatively~~

~~non-stretchable portion surrounds at least one of the front halo portion and the rear halo portion.~~, and wherein one or both of the front halo portion and the rear halo portion are adjustable in circumference.

~~57.~~7. The interface assembly of Claim 6~~56~~, wherein the relatively non-stretchable portion surrounds each of the front halo portion and the rear halo portion.

~~58. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 56-57, wherein one or both of the front halo portion and the rear halo portion are adjustable in circumference.~~

~~59.~~8. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 6~~56~~-7~~58~~, further comprising a break-fit assembly that permits the headgear to move between a normal configuration and an enlarged configuration.

~~60.~~9. The interface assembly of Claim 8~~59~~, wherein the break-fit assembly comprises a separation between a first portion of the headgear and a second portion of the headgear, wherein the first and second portions are held together in the normal configuration and are moved apart in the enlarged configuration.

~~61. The interface assembly of Claim 60, wherein the first and second portions are held together by a magnetic closure.~~

~~62. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 60-61, wherein the first and second portions comprise first and second flaps, respectively.~~

~~63. The interface assembly of Claim 62, wherein the first and second flaps are joined by a pleat.~~

~~64.~~10. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 6~~56~~-6~~39~~, wherein the front halo portion connects to each side of the mask at a first location, wherein the headgear further comprises straps on each side of the headgear that each connect to a respective side of the mask at a second location spaced from the first location.

~~65.~~11. The interface assembly of Claim 10~~64~~, wherein the first and second locations are upper and lower locations, respectively.

~~66.~~12. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 6~~56~~-11~~65~~, further comprising strengthening features that are formed into or otherwise secured to the relatively stretchable portion of the headgear.

~~67. An interface assembly, comprising:~~

~~a mask comprising a seal that surrounds and delivers a flow of breathing gas to a mouth and/or nose of a user, the mask comprising a support structure having an elongated slot;~~

~~a headgear that secures the mask to the face of the user, wherein the headgear comprises an end portion that passes through the elongated slot of the mask and is folded to form a loop, the loop having a fold that supports the mask, wherein the end portion can be adjusted in an upward or downward direction to adjust an angle of the mask relative to the headgear.~~

~~68. The interface assembly of Claim 67, wherein the end portion defines a tapered shape.~~

~~69. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 67 68, wherein the end portion can be coupled to the headgear to secure the mask in a desired angular position.~~

~~70. The interface assembly of any one of Claims 67 69, wherein the elongated slot is linear in shape.~~

13. The interface assembly of Claim 1, wherein the seal is configured to seal around a mouth of a user and on an underside of a nose of the user.

14. The interface assembly of Claim 6, wherein the headgear comprises a relatively stretchable portion and a relatively non-stretchable portion, wherein the relatively non-stretchable portion surrounds at least one of the front halo portion and the rear halo portion.

15. The interface assembly of Claim 6, wherein the headgear comprises a crown strap, the crown strap being common to the front halo portion and rear halo portion.

16. The interface assembly of Claim 6, wherein the crown strap comprises a central adjustment feature.

17. The interface assembly of Claim 16, wherein the central adjustment feature is configured to adjust the circumference of the front halo portion and the rear halo portion.

18. The interface assembly of Claim 6, wherein the headgear comprises rigid ear loop portions, each portion extending in an arcuate manner behind the user's ears from below the ear to above the ear.

19. The interface assembly of Claim 18, wherein the rigid ear loop portions encircle the user's ears.

20. The interface assembly of Claim 19, wherein the headgear comprises a lower strap and an upper strap on each side to connect the mask to the headgear, the upper strap applying a force to the mask in a direction that facilitates or assists in sealing the mask against a bottom surface of the user's nose, and the lower strap facilitates or assists in rotational adjustment of the mask.

21. The interface assembly of Claim 18, wherein the headgear comprises a crown strap and a rear strap, the rear strap being configured to pass across the rear of the user's head, each of the crown strap and the rear strap being configured to extend in a generally radial direction from the ear loops and being oriented generally perpendicular to one another.

22. The interface assembly of Claim 6, wherein the headgear comprises a crown strap, which forms a part of each of the front halo portion and the rear halo portion, and a rear strap, which forms a part of the rear halo portion.