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Sumitomo Chemical Develops Ultra-High-Intensity OLED Light Source for Print Head Application Jointly with Epson

Sumitomo Chemical and Seiko Epson Corp. ("Epson") have jointly developed an ultra-high-intensity electro-luminescent polymer material for use as the organic light-emitting diode (OLED) light source in print head applications.

Current printing presses and printers that use electro-photographic printing technology generally employ either laser or LED light sources. However, through the combination of the ultra-high-intensity electro-luminescent polymer material developed by Sumitomo Chemical with Epson's printer and display technology, the companies have successfully developed a new type of printing technology using an OLED method. The advantages of this method are not only the evenness of the images it produces, but also the thinness and compactness of the print head. This is achieved through a process by which the OLED material is coated directly onto a glass substrate, allowing a single substrate to have a linear light source, and making possible irradiation with precision regulation of brightness and pinpoint accuracy.

Sumitomo Chemical has accumulated a wealth of display material technologies and electro-conductive polymer technologies in the course of its many years in the business. In May of last year, Sumitomo Chemical acquired Lumation[®], Dow Chemical's OLED business for displays, and in November, formed a joint venture with the British company, Cambridge Display Technology, for the development, production and sales of OLED materials. This further strengthened the company's development capabilities in the field of high-intensity luminescent materials for applications such as displays and lighting. The current joint development is a foray into a new field for Sumitomo Chemical's technology. The company is committed to accelerating its development efforts in high-growth segments in the future.

About Epson

Epson is a global leader in imaging products including printers, projectors and LCDs. With an innovative and creative culture, Epson is dedicated to exceeding the vision and expectations of customers worldwide with products known for their superior quality, functionality, compactness and energy efficiency. Epson is a network of 98,480 employees in 107 companies around the world, and is proud of its ongoing contributions to the global environment and to the communities in which it is located. Led by the Japan-based Seiko Epson Corp., the Group had consolidated sales of 1479.7 billion yen in fiscal 2004. For more information, please visit <http://www.epson.co.jp/e/>.