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### Sumitomo Chemical to Start Manufacturing High-Purity Alumina in South Korea

Sumitomo Chemical will start manufacturing high-purity alumina, used in coatings for a cathode, anode and separator for lithium-ion secondary batteries, in Iksan, South Korea, next spring. The company is now building a manufacturing facility with an annual production capacity of 1,600 tons and will start operation in April 2013.

Sumitomo Chemical's high-purity alumina is over 99.99% pure and exhibits excellent properties in heat resistance, insulation and flame retardance. In recent years, high-purity alumina has been increasingly used in coatings for a cathode, anode and separator for high-capacity lithium-ion secondary batteries for hybrid cars and electric vehicles because the use of high-purity alumina improves the safety of lithium-ion secondary batteries. Under the circumstances, the company has decided to build the new manufacturing facility in South Korea, expecting demand for high-purity alumina to grow with an expansion of the lithium-ion secondary battery market.

In order to achieve greater growth of its high-purity alumina business, Sumitomo Chemical is not only strengthening its production capabilities, but also promoting R&D to develop new grades of high-purity alumina used for lithium-ion secondary batteries as well as to further improve product quality, thereby meeting customers' diverse needs speedily.

As for high-purity alumina used for sapphire substrates for LEDs, Sumitomo Chemical has recently doubled an annual production capacity at its Ehime Works (Niihama, Ehime Prefecture, Japan) from 1,600 tons to 3,200 tons. A newly built facility began operation in November this year chiefly for supply to the domestic market. Sumitomo Chemical will further enhance working closely with domestic customers through continued stable supply of the product.