

Special Feature

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Information & Communication Technology

Supporting the Advance

Addressing Diversifying Needs in Information and Communication

IT society has been diversifying with the proliferation of information devices such as smartphones and tablets that have made people's lives more convenient. Sumitomo Chemical supports the development of the information electronics industry by providing a wide range of products and services that leverage its cutting-edge technologies.

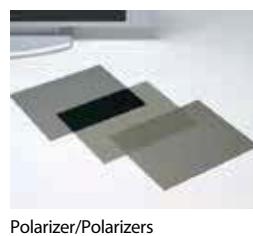
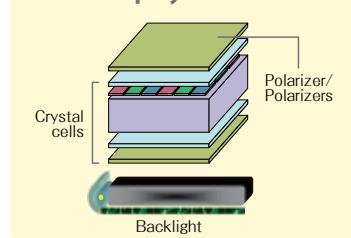
Production of high-performance polarizers, an essential part of LCDs

Sumitomo Chemical develops **polarizers** used in liquid-crystal displays (LCDs) as a product that supports cutting-edge information devices. Polarizers are films that control the condition of light, allowing people to clearly see videos and images on LCD screens.

LCDs are used in a diversifying array of applications, such as PC displays, TVs, and mobile handsets that have become essential aspects of the lifestyles of people around the world. LCD manufacturers aim to differentiate themselves by the display quality of videos and images. Using the latest technologies, Sumitomo Chemical's polarizers excel at being able to perform according to the requirements of LCD manufacturers. Sumitomo Chemical has business bases located in the main LCD-producing countries, such as South Korea, Taiwan, and China in addition to Japan, allowing it to rapidly and precisely reflect the needs of local manufacturers in polarizer development.

We have also focused on improving the transmittance and light utilization efficiency of polarizers in order to help reduce the energy consumption of devices. We have also reduced environmental impact by reassessing production processes, such as by eliminating a pretreatment process that is now unnecessary for some films.

●LCD display structure



Polarizer/Polarizers

Next-generation touchscreen panel offers new type of displays for information devices

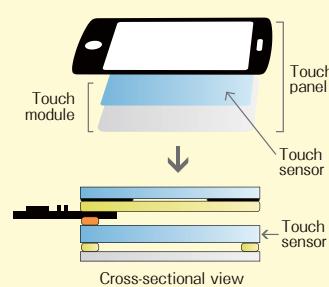
Sumitomo Chemical is engaged in the **touchscreen panel** business against a background of growing demand around the world for smartphones and tablets. Touchscreen panels are a key input device for smartphones and tablets that increase their ease of use.

Sumitomo Chemical began producing next-generation touchscreen panels in 2012 after constructing a plant at Dongwoo Fine-Chem Co., Ltd., its Korean base for the IT-related chemicals business. Instead of LCDs, these touchscreen panels are used with high-brilliance OLEDs, which can beautifully reproduce images on an easily controlled screen with excellent energy conservation performance.

Touchscreen panels allow users to control devices by directly touching the screen, making them easy to use even for people unfamiliar with information devices. Sumitomo Chemical is currently developing touchscreen panels that can bend and expects these bendable panels to be well suited for a broad range of applications once development has finished.

In this way, Sumitomo Chemical supports the advancement of information communications infrastructure with high-performance products that lead the industry.

●Touchscreen panel



Inspection of touchscreen panels