

Sumitomo Chemical to Accelerate Fostering of New Businesses

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Sumitomo Chemical plans to incubate new businesses with combined annual sales of some 150 bn yen (\$1.80 bn) by fiscal 2015 in the sectors of environment and energy, information and communications technology, and life sciences.

Under environment and energy, the company had decided to increase its output capacity in Singapore for ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer with high vinyl acetate content and will promote the EVA as encapsulating material for silicon solar cells. The company plans to commercialize and expand its sapphire substrates for light-emitting-diode lighting and raw material alumina; high-thermal-conductivity resins; silicon/gallium nitride epitaxial wafers for power semiconductor devices and organic-LED lighting.

Sumitomo will also foster its businesses in diesel particulate filters and carbon dioxide scrubbers. It is aiming for a one-fourth share of the global DPF market with the Q3 2013 startup of a production facility in Poland.

Under information and communications technology, the company will focus on next-generation polarizing plates for liquid crystal displays and polymer-OLED displays. It will review the components of the polarizing plates to gain a cost advantage and reduce thickness and weight. Besides setting up a mass-production plant in Osaka for polymer-OLED materials for flat-screen televisions, it will upgrade the materials and make provisions for expected demand growth.

With these businesses and its planned commercialization of organic thin film solar cells, organic semiconductors and lithium-ion-battery cathode materials, Sumitomo projects that its annual sales from new businesses will amount to 300 bn-400 bn yen by fiscal 2020.

Source Japan Chemical Web