

April 7, 2006

Mitsui Chemicals to Wholly Own Two Toner Resin Joint Ventures in the U.S. and Europe

Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. (MCI) and Avecia Investments Limited (Manchester, UK) have agreed that two 50-50 joint ventures producing toner resins for copiers and printers will become wholly owned subsidiaries of MCI on March 31, 2006. The two joint ventures are U.S.-based Image Polymers Company (IPC) and U.K.-based Image Polymers Europe (IPE).

MCI is a global leader in styrene acrylic resins, the most-used copier and printer toner resin in the world. By incorporating IPC and IPE wholly owned subsidiaries, MCI aims to improve global coordination and expand its business in this field. With a tri-polar operating framework spanning Japan, Europe and the U.S., MCI will strengthen its competitiveness and the development of new products to better serve existing markets and contribute to the growing Asian markets.

In its Medium-term Business Plan, MCI aims to expand and grow the Performance Materials Sector consisting of businesses including functional polymers, information and electronics materials and health-care materials. Toner resin is part of the information materials business, which handles materials such as for recording and displays. Wholly owning IPC and IPE is part of the company's strategy to bolster the information materials business, a targeted domain in the information and electronics materials field.

<Overviews of IPC and IPE>

Company	Image Polymers Company	Image Polymers Europe
Business	Manufacture and sale of toner resins	Manufacture and sale of toner resins
Established	1988	1996
Location	Tennessee, U.S.	Scotland, U.K.
President	Tom Kinneman	Tom Kinneman