

2020.04.22
Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.

Mitsui Chemicals to Boost Production Capacity for APEL™, Cyclic Olefin Copolymer

Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. (Tokyo: 4183; President & CEO: HASHIMOTO Osamu) today announced that it will establish a new plant within Osaka Works, Takaishi, Osaka Prefecture, to produce the APEL™ series of cyclic olefin copolymers. Finding its major application in smartphone camera lenses, APEL™ is meeting with surging demand driven by a recent trend toward multi-lens cameras in these devices. Mitsui Chemicals is therefore looking to set up a supply system able to deal with this increased demand.

By establishing the new plant, Mitsui Chemicals' production capacity for APEL™ will rise by approximately 50 percent. Construction on the new plant is starting this month and is slated to wrap up in March 2022.

Plans going forward are to further grow Mitsui Chemicals' APEL™ business by capturing new demand in applications such as automotive cameras, head-mounted displays and the medical sector.



APEL™ cyclic olefin copolymer



Main application: smartphone cameras

Mitsui Chemicals is positioning its Performance Polymers Division – which includes APEL™ and is focused on ICT – as a growth sector. Through this latest production capacity increase, Mitsui Chemicals expects that it will be able to continue meeting increased demand here for the time being. But to properly respond to further demand growth going forward, Mitsui Chemicals will now begin to also consider its next production increase for the series.



Mitsui Chemicals

NEWS RELEASE

Shiodome City Center 1-5-2, Higashi-Shimbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-7122, Japan
<http://group.mitsuichemicals.com>

mitsui CHEMICALS, INC.

Overview:

1	Target product	Cyclic olefin copolymer (product name: APEL™)
2	Location	Mitsui Chemicals Osaka Works
3	Address	6, Takasago 1-chome, Takaishi, Osaka Prefecture
4	Additional capacity	One line
5	Technology	Proprietary Mitsui Chemicals technology
6	Schedule	Start of construction: April 2020 End of construction: March 2022
7	Existing facilities	One line each at Iwakuni-Ohtake Works and Osaka Works, making for a total of two lines