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Mitsui Chemicals to Launch Liquid EPDM (Mitsui EPT L series™)

Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. (MCI) announced that it has decided to launch a new product, liquid EPDM, in addition to existing solid EPDM. MCI manufactures and sells EPDM, ethylene-propylene-diene terpolymer, (trade name: Mitsui EPT L series™) used in automotive parts, electric wires and cables and other industrial parts.

<Overview of the New Product>

1. Product: Liquid EPDM
(ethylene-propylene diene-terpolymer)
2. Trade name: Mitsui EPT L series™
3. Production facility: Existing plant facility at Iwakuni Works site
4. Technology: Proprietary
5. Start of sales: planned in fiscal year 2006
6. Sales: over ¥1.0 billion (for fiscal year 2011)

The existing EPDM boasts a number of outstanding properties. Not only is it resistant to weather and ozone as well as heat and cold, but it also possesses outstanding rubber elasticity, electrical characteristics and chemical resistance. It is widely used in automotive parts, covering materials of electric wire and cables, and sophisticated materials of other industrial products.

Newly launching Mitsui EPT L series™, being different from the existing solid-form EPDM, is viscous, liquid EPDM at ordinary temperatures. It has an advantage in fluidity, being suitable for precision moldings. Accordingly, “Mitsui EPT L series™” is expected to expand its applications to sealing parts for electronic and electrical products, which impose high accuracy in thickness. Furthermore, it becomes solidified even at ordinary temperatures by utilizing various modifications, which was impossible to materialize in the existing EPDM. It is, therefore, used as raw materials of sealants and adhesives in construction and civil engineering since it solidifies on site. After it gets rigid, it becomes a rubber, having a superior feature equivalent to the existing EPDM.

In its current Medium-term Business Plan, MCI aims to expand and grow in the Performance Materials Sector, comprising Functional Polymers, Information and Electronics Materials, and Healthcare Materials. Functional Polymers have a central role to play in this drive. For this reason, MCI is working to expand and grow this business as well as develop new products. In terms of EPDM, one of the functional polymers, MCI will actively engage in new product development such as “Mitsui EPT L series™”. The company will continuously expand and grow the business by providing a new value, meeting with the customers’ diverse needs.