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July 19, 2007

ZEON Corporation held a groundbreaking ceremony today at its Mizushima Plant (Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture) to commemorate the construction of a new facility which will produce COP (Cyclo-Olefin Polymer; product names ZEONEX® and ZEONOR®), a high functional, thermoplastic transparent resin.

The facility will mainly produce ZEONOR®, a high functional resin used in the optical film, ZEONOR Film®. The annual capacity of the existing facility was expanded to 10,000 tons in June 2005 and further expanded to 13,000 tons in May 2007. The new facility under construction will have the same capacity as the existing facility. With the completion of the new facility, total production capacity for COP combined with ZEONEX® will increase to 31,000 tons per year. Construction is scheduled to be completed at the end of July 2008.

ZEONOR® is used not only as a material for optical films but in a variety of other areas including light-guide plates and diffusion plates for LCDs, and demand has been rising dramatically in the recent years.

ZEONOR® has the following property of:

- (1) Extremely low moisture permeability and excellent dimensional stability
- (2) High transparency across a wide wavelength range
- (3) Low optical anisotropy; low dispersion and low light elasticity, which are superior properties required for optical film materials

Supplementary explanation of COP

ZEONOR® is used in a broad range of areas, such as light-guide plates for PCs and mobile phones, diffusion plates and optical films for LCD TVs, optical disks, automotive lamp components, and food containers. The properties of ZEONOR® are now more widely recognized when developing of thin products (bio-chemical products for analysis and culture, materials for next-generation optical disks) that benefit from its high fluidity and high-precision transferring, and in electrical insulating materials that take advantage of its superior electric properties.

Featuring high transparency and low double refraction properties, ZEONEX® is mainly used for optical devices, including the lenses and prisms of camera lenses in mobile phones, digital cameras and compact cameras, fθ

lenses for electronic equipment in offices, the pick-up lenses in CDs and DVDs, and containers and packaging material for medical products.

 **For further information**

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