

ZEON to Expand Production Capacity for Monomers Used as Raw Material for High-Transparency Thermoplastic Resin Cyclo-olefin Polymers

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ZEON CORPORATION (Head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO: Naozumi Furukawa) will expand production capacity at the Mizushima Plant (Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture) for monomers used as raw material for cyclo-olefin polymers (COP), a high-transparency thermoplastic resin.

Demand for COP (product names: ZEONEX[®] and ZEONOR[®]) continues to rise owing to its optical applications in markets such as printers, LCD televisions, smartphones, digital cameras, and medical inspection equipment. To meet the expected increase in quantity required, ZEON will raise the total production capacity for monomers (dicyclopentadiene derivatives) used as raw material for COP to match the production capacity of 31,000 t/year for COP. Construction of the facility is scheduled to begin in fiscal 2013 and operations are expected to commence in August 2014.

Supplementary Explanation

High-transparency thermoplastic resin cyclo-olefin polymer (COP) The company is aiming at full utilization of the C5 fraction, a by-product produced when ethylene and propylene are derived from naphtha. COP is made from dicyclopentadiene (DCPD) extracted and separated from the C5 fraction. COP was originally developed and marketed by ZEON in 1990 ahead of other companies across the globe. It is being used in a broad range of applications due to its diverse properties that correlate with the type of monomer (DCPD derivative) being used as raw material.

For further information

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