

April 26, 2018

## **Zeon to Increase Production of Hydrogenated Nitrile Rubber**

Zeon Corporation

**Zeon Corporation (head office: Tokyo, president: Kimiaki Tanaka) announced it will boost the production capacity of the Kawasaki plant to expand its business of specialty cross-linked hydrogenated nitrile rubber, “High-Performance Zetpol®”.**

**High-Performance Zetpol® is increasingly being adopted for use in important safety and underhood parts for automobiles, and the latest expansion aims to meet this growing demand.**

Hydrogenated nitrile rubber (Zetpol®), a specialty rubber with enhanced heat resistance achieved by hydrogenating highly oil-resistant nitrile rubber, is manufactured at Zeon’s three bases: the Takaoka plant in Toyama Prefecture, Kawasaki plant in Kanagawa Prefecture, and Zeon’s subsidiary, Zeon Chemicals L.P.’s plant in the United States. The Kawasaki plant manufactures High-Performance Zetpol®, which offers enhanced heat resistance of more than 10°C compared to conventional Zetpol®. High-Performance Zetpol® is increasingly being adopted as an alternative to fluorinated rubber (FKM) for use in high-temperature environments. Zetpol® HNBR Latex, commonly utilized for in coating glass cord and fabric, is also manufactured at the Kawasaki plant.

High-Performance Zetpol® provides benefit in automotive and industrial gasket applications, oil seals, fuel-resistant hoses, and other automotive components. Zetpol® latex is mainly used to treat core wires for automotive timing belts that are immersed in oil\*<sup>2</sup> and on turbocharged engines\*<sup>1</sup>.

Zeon will continue to support automobile industry development by supplying special rubbers that deliver superior performance.

\*1 Turbochargers or superchargers ensure power performance when reducing engine displacement, thus improving automobile fuel efficiency.

\*2 Core wire treatment for timing belts in oil is used when attaching core wires made of fabric or steel wire to highly oil-resistant timing belts. This adds dimensional stability and flex resistance, thereby enabling use of the belts immersed inside the oil-filled crankcase of the engine.



High-Performance Zetpol<sup>®</sup> manufacturing facility (Kawasaki plant)

About Zeon ([http://www.zeon.co.jp/index\\_e.html](http://www.zeon.co.jp/index_e.html))

Zeon Corporation is a world leader in specialty elastomers, polymers, and specialty chemicals founded in 1950. We are one of the top producers of polymers in the world, operating a global network of plants in Asia and North America, and research and development laboratories in Japan, the United States, China, and Singapore.

With almost 70 years in business and consolidated sales of over U.S. \$2.9 billion, we have both the experience and the expertise in C4 and C5 chemistry to offer a wide range of products. Zeon Corporation employs over 3,300 people worldwide, with global headquarters in Tokyo and regional headquarters in the United States, Singapore, and Germany.

For further information

Zeon Corporation, Department of Corporate Communications

Tel: +81-3-3216-2747