

October 16, 2018

Zeon to ramp up Production Capacity for Optical Film for Large-screen TVs

—— Manufacturing the World's Widest Film in Fukui Prefecture ——

Zeon Corporation (head office: Tokyo, president: Kimiaki Tanaka) announced it will establish a new manufacturing line for retardation film used in large-screen TVs, at its optical film plant in Tsuruga City, Fukui Prefecture, Japan. Operations are scheduled to start in April 2020.

Zeon produces optical film (ZeonorFilm™) at the three Hokuriku plants of its manufacturing subsidiary Optes Inc., which include the Takaoka Plant and Himi Plant in Toyama Prefecture and the Tsuruga Plant in Fukui Prefecture.

ZeonorFilm™ is the optical film made by the thermoplastic (cyclo-olefin polymers) developed with Zeon's unique polymer design technology and the melt extrusion process which Zeon had succeeded the first in the world as optical film production. It possesses excellent optical characteristics and extremely little dimensional change, specific characteristics of cyclo-olefin polymers. Therefore, the demand is growing primarily for use as a retardation film, as it allows for such functions as wide viewing angle and low reflectance for displays on large-screen TVs and mobile devices.

This investment is in response to the increasing size of LCD panels, and Zeon will be capable of manufacturing 2,500 mm class products, equivalent to the world's widest retardation film. An annual production capacity of 50 million m² is planned for the new line. That combined with Zeon's current production capacity for retardation film for TVs will raise overall production capacity to 16.9 million m². In addition, allocating the production to separate plants in the prefectures of Toyama and Fukui will serve as an effective measure to ensure business continuity. The new plant will be built on an already purchased plot of land at the Tsuruga site.

Mass production is scheduled to commence in April 2020.

Outline of Investment Plan

- Location: Zeon Corporation site in the Tsuruga City industrial park (Azono, Tsuruga City)
- Land area: Approx. 3.2 ha
- Building area: Approx. 9,700 m²
- Total floor area: Approx. 13,000 m²
- New employment: About 20 to 30 employees
- Start of construction: February 2019 (tentative)
- Completion: December 2019 (tentative)
- Operation: Manufacturing of optical film for LCD TVs