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Zeon to boost production of cyclo olefin polymers

Meeting growing demand for optical film and other applications

Zeon Corporation (president: Kimiaki Tanaka) decided to increase its production capacity of cyclo olefin polymers (COPs), a transparent thermoplastic resin, at its Mizushima Plant in Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture.

COPs (product names: ZEONEX® and ZEONOR®) have enjoyed growing demand in major areas of application, including LCD TVs, smartphones, and medical containers. This has led to expectations of a further rise in demand over the coming years. The latest move is projected to boost annual production from 37,000 tons to 41,600 tons. Construction is set to begin in fiscal 2020, with completion scheduled for July 2021.

Zeon's COPs are highly recognized for their superior optical and chemical properties and are being used for wide-ranging applications, from optical films and optical lenses to medical products and biotechnology. Zeon has made successive moves to boost its production capacity of ZeonorFilm® in particular, as demand for ever larger displays has led to an expansion of the market. However, additional demand resulting from steady growth in applications for lenses and medical purposes is expected to cause an imbalance in overall COP supply and demand. The latest increase in production capacity is therefore intended to address this imbalance, and Zeon will continue to ensure a steady supply of COPs as it seeks to contribute to the development of industry.

