

August 21, 2024

Zeon Files Lawsuit in Germany against Infringement of Patent for Lithium-Ion Battery Materials

Zeon Corporation

Zeon Corporation (Zeon; head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO: Tetsuya Toyoshima) filed a lawsuit on August 9, 2024, in the District Court of Munich, Germany, against Arlanxeo Deutschland GmbH (Arlanxeo), a manufacturer and supplier of lithium-ion battery materials, for infringement of Zeon's German patent on lithium-ion battery materials, and seeks an injunction against further infringement as well as compensation for damages related to Arlanxeo's manufacture and sale of the relevant products in Germany.

This lawsuit seeks an injunction and damages against acts including the manufacture and sale in Germany of Arlanxeo products that Zeon deems have been manufactured and sold using Zeon's patented technology on cathode binders for lithium-ion batteries used in electric vehicles, smartphones, laptops, and other products. The lawsuit targets activities defined as "working"* under the Patent Act and was filed to protect important intellectual property rights associated with technology that Zeon has actively invested in to develop its business. Zeon believes this action will contribute to achieving sound development and maintaining order in the lithium-ion battery materials industry.

Zeon's cathode binders were the first non-fluorine binders adopted by the industry and have been widely supported and recognized by lithium-ion battery manufacturers. Zeon has been producing various types of materials for lithium-ion batteries, including cathode binders and anodes, by applying proprietary technologies developed over many years ahead of its competitors, and continues to engage in significant investments and business development. Furthermore, Zeon has addressed the expanding global battery market by establishing a timely and stable system for supplying products from its worldwide bases to ensure that customers can use its products with confidence, while proactively protecting and utilizing its intellectual property rights, including numerous patents for lithium-ion battery materials.

Zeon will not tolerate any future acts of manufacturing, selling, or using products based on the use of Zeon's patented technology without permission and will seek liability for and take appropriate action against any and all such infringements.

*Activities as defined under Patent Act, Article 2, Paragraph 3.

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