

ZEON Group (Japan)

Optes Inc.

Introduction to Optes Inc.

Optes Inc. is a contract manufacturer for ZEON Corporation that molds and processes products mainly used for optical films and small molded components using ZEONEX[®] and ZEONOR[®], transparent plastics that ZEON Corporation developed independently. We have production bases in Tochigi and Toyama prefectures. Our Toyama Plant manufactures films for LCD displays, while our Sano Plant in Tochigi produces medical test cells. Through the contributions they make to energy conservation, these products represent our ongoing effort to achieve a more harmonious relationship with the global environment by bringing creative, environmentally friendly products to the world using unique and innovative technologies that neither imitate nor can be imitated themselves.



Plant Manager Tunehisa Ueda



Optes Toyama Plant (Takaoka)



Optes Toyama Plant (Takaoka)



Optes Toyama Plant (Himi)



Rendering of the completed Optes Tsuruga Plant (to be completed in October 2013)

Environmental and Safety Activities

1. Comprehensive Safety Efforts

We have positioned safety at the core of all activities, and are moving forward with efforts to achieve zero incidents, zero accidents, and improved quality. In fiscal 2012, we focused in particular on past efforts including near-miss incident identification^{*1}, risk assessment training (4R-KYT^{*2}), and emergency evacuation drills, as well as the thorough implementation of risk evaluation of manufacturing equipment and the construction of “zero-risk equipment.” Through these efforts and others, we devotedly strived towards the creation of completely safe equipment. We also improved employee safety training, shifting from a concept in which training is given to one in which training is put into practice. Through this we created “safety sensation equipment,” creating a system that allows for safer operations by allowing all employees to sense danger for themselves.

*1 Near-miss incidents

Near-miss incidents are unplanned events that nearly result in injuries or other losses.

*2 4R-KYT

A risk assessment method whereby employees proactively eliminate risk by discussing and learning from each other about potential risk factors in their work environment and tasks as well as the circumstance those factors can create. The program consists of four steps, or rounds (R), hence the name 4R-KYT (KY stands for “kiken yochi,” or risk assessment).

2. Environmental Data

Optes Inc. Sano Plant		FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012
Substances covered by PRTR law	Number of substances	1	1	1	1	1
	Consumption (tons)	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Amount emitted (tons)	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Industrial waste	Amount generated (before volume reduction) (tons)	16	11	7.2	5.9	7.0
	Amount sent to landfill (tons)	16	11	0.7	0.0	0.0
Water resources (Industrial water + Ground water + Waterworks) consumption (1,000 m ³)		18	4.0	4.4	3.7	5.2
CO ₂ emissions (tons)		1,580	1,711	1,015	1,105	919
Energy consumption (crude oil equivalent, kL)		888	981	611	664	625

Optes Inc. Toyama Plant		FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012
Substances covered by PRTR law	Number of substances	0	0	0	0	0
	Consumption (tons)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Amount emitted (tons)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Industrial waste	Amount generated (before volume reduction) (tons)	200	462	419	707	849
	Amount sent to landfill (tons)	0.0	0.8	1.5	0.0	0.0
Water resources (Industrial water + Ground water + Waterworks) consumption (1,000 m ³)		-	40	50	31	29
CO ₂ emissions (tons)		20,798	19,604	13,159	8,499	9,622
Energy consumption (crude oil equivalent, kL)		8,608	10,058	10,501	9,390	10,313

Activities with the Local Community

Optes engages with its local communities throughout the year. To help beautify areas near our plant in Toyama, we participate in cleanup efforts in the Kamitako area of Himi City. In spring and fall we pick up litter and pull weeds around our plants, and in summer we clean up local beaches. We also accept field trip requests for high school students, hosting plant tours for three high schools in Toyama Prefecture. One high school student who participated in a tour said, "I'm very proud that products used around the world are being manufactured in Toyama Prefecture." Further, we worked with four high schools to accept students for their internship programs, allowing students to experience working at plants in order to gain firsthand experience of working life. This program was extremely popular, and produced results including the fact that some of the students who participated in the program joined Optes after graduation the following fiscal year.



Picking up trash in Kamitako



Plant tour for Himi High School



Internship