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ZEON CORPORATION (President: Kimiaki Tanaka) announced that it will expand its optical film plant in Himi City, Toyama Prefecture, Japan, by constructing a fifth production line for retardation films used in LCDs for TVs.

Retardation films are the key component of LCDs that enable wide viewing angle* and contrast optimization, both of which are essential for LCD TV image quality.

Demand for ZEON's ZeonorFilm[®] retardation films is increasing due to the excellent optical properties they possess: high transparency, low birefringence, low wavelength dispersion and low photoelasticity, outstanding dimensional stability owing to low water absorbency and heat resistance. Larger size TVs as well as advances in high-definition displays, such as 4K (ultra-high definition), have led to increased demand for ZeonorFilm[®] retardation film and ZEON expects robust growth in film requirement for the LCD TV market to continue.

The new retardation film production line will have a production capacity of 30 million m2 per year. Mass production is scheduled to begin in April 2015. ZEON's Himi factory currently has four lines producing retardation films with annual capacity of 65 million m2. Capacity at Himi will increase to 95 million m2 per year with the addition of the fifth production line.

* The anterior angle of the area in which images on a display appear normal



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