Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company, Inc.
April 1, 2009

MGC announces construction of additional production facility for specialty polycarbonate with excellent optical properties

Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company, Inc. (“MGC”) today announced its decision to construct a production facility to manufacture Iupizeta® EP, a specialty polycarbonate resin, at its Kashima plant (Kasumi, Ibaraki Prefecture). Construction begins this month. The facility is scheduled to begin commercial operation in March 2010, prior to which MGC will seek to further develop applications for Iupizeta® EP and cultivate the market for this product.

In recent years, the demand for compact, lightweight and low-cost lenses has driven a growing trend in optical lens materials toward the use of resin materials with good processibility as a replacement for glass, the conventionally used material that, although it offers excellent optical properties, is both heavy and fragile. However, the significant optical distortions of standard resin have hindered its application in high quality cameras, creating the need to develop a new resin material with superior optical characteristics.

The optical lens material that MGC has developed, Iupizeta® EP, has extremely low birefringence, a property that causes optical distortion, and is a specialty polycarbonate resin that has a refractive index of 1.63[1]. With high fluidity making it ideal for thinly molded designs, and excellent durability, Iupizeta® EP is used in camera-equipped mobile phones and digital cameras, as well as vehicle cameras (e.g. rear view cameras) and surveillance cameras, both of which require durability under demanding conditions.

MGC has been selling Iupizeta® EP-4000 for digital camera applications since 2006, while developing Iupizeta® EP-5000, a new grade with improved optical characteristics and heat resistance, for which it has sought to cultivate the market. MGC aims to further develop the polycarbonate resin for applications in high performance optical lenses as well as other applications such as optical film.

1: Refractive index of Iupizeta ®EP-5000

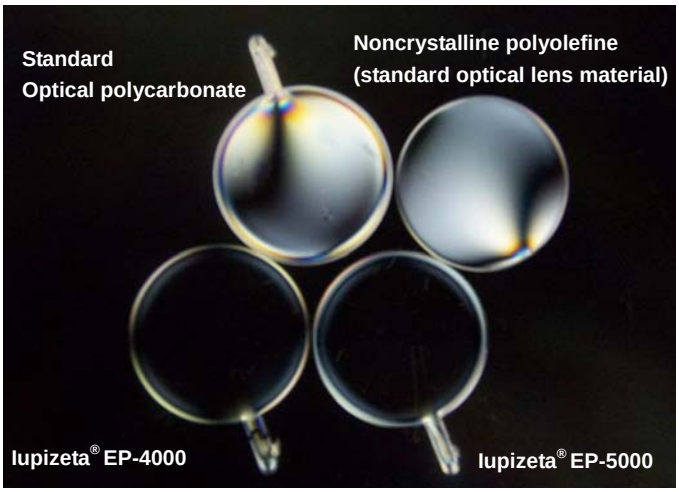

Photo: Comparison of birefringence (light leakage of injection molded discs under crossed Nichols). Area of optical distortion appears as brightly coloured light

Reference

Comparison of resin characteristics

	Iupizeta ®		**Polycarbonate (Optical disk grade)**
	EP-5000	**EP-4000**	
Surface birefringence Nm (1/32" thick)	**5**	**8**	230
Refractive index nD	**1.634**	**1.603**	1.586
Abbe number Nd	23.9	28.4	30
Full spectrum transmissivity % (3mm thick)	89	90	91
Glass transition temperature ℃	145	121	143

For further information please contact:

Ms. Sachiko Koshiishi

Corporate Communications Division

Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company, Inc.

TEL: 03-3283-5041

For product enquires please contact:

Mr. Tsuneaki Iwakiri

Corporate Planning Department

Specialty Chemicals Company

TEL 03-3283-4888