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Press release

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Merck acquires LITEC-LLL GmbH

A further step to strengthen activities in innovative lighting materials

Darmstadt, July 7, 2008 – Merck KGaA today announced that it has acquired in full LITEC-LLL GmbH of Greifswald, Germany, a specialist in the research and development as well as production and marketing of ortho-silicate lighting materials. The acquisition of the company, which was founded in 2002, gives Merck access to the future-oriented business with light sources for LEDs. Merck is taking over LITEC's 16 employees along with the company's R&D, production, marketing & sales activities and established customer relationships. The site in Greifswald will be retained. The parties have agreed not to disclose the financial details of the transaction.

"The acquisition of LITEC is a further strategic step in building a business with innovative light sources in the medium to long term," explained Dr. Monika Kursawe, who heads the Advanced Materials unit at Merck Chemicals. Dr. Tews, Managing Director of LITEC-LLL GmbH, added: "With Merck we have found a partner who will ensure, within the scope of its strategic plans, the professional continuation of our developments."

Merck has been pursuing research and development of innovative light sources, e.g. YAG and TAG light sources for white-light LEDs since 2005. By integrating LITEC's competencies, Merck will enter the market for innovative, highly efficient light sources. In turn, Merck's global sales organization will have broader access to established LITEC products.

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Press release

What are light sources for LEDs?

In terms of both their energy efficiency and longevity, present-day lighting materials, e.g. incandescent light bulbs, pose a burden to energy consumption and the environment. An alternative exists already in the form of LEDs or light-emitting diodes. One of the outstanding features of LEDs is their long lifetime of up to 50,000 hours. Another feature is their energy efficiency, which is already around 50%. However, for LEDs to ultimately succeed, they must be able to emit the natural spectrum of light. To date, the known semiconductor LEDs can only generate monochromatic light, which must be transformed into white light via suitable technical measures. This can only be done by adding the corresponding lighting materials. Merck is pursuing the objective of developing suitable light sources capable of producing the most natural white light possible while retaining the recognized advantages of inorganic semiconductor LEDs such as longevity and high energy efficiency. For this purpose, Merck recently set up the MerckLab with the Münster University of Applied Sciences.

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Merck is a global pharmaceutical and chemical company with total revenues of EUR 7.1 billion in 2007, a history that began in 1668, and a future shaped by 31,681 employees in 60 countries. Its success is characterized by innovations from entrepreneurial employees. Merck's operating activities come under the umbrella of Merck KGaA, in which the Merck family holds an approximately 70% interest and free shareholders own the remaining approximately 30%. In 1917 the U.S. subsidiary Merck & Co. was expropriated and has been an independent company ever since.