MITSUI CHEMICALS GROWING DIVERSIFICATION IN THE OPHTHALMIC INDUSTRY

With roots tracing back to 1912, Mitsui Chemicals, Inc., headquartered in Tokyo (Japan), is a leading manufacturer and supplier of value-added specialty chemicals, plastics and performance materials for multiple industries including agriculture, mobility, building and civil engineering, electronics, energy, healthcare and packaging. Mitsui Chemicals has more than 30 years of experience in the development and production of innovative premium high-index optical lens materials under the MR series brand name (MR-8, MR-7, MR-10, MR-174).

The MR™ series is a line of optical materials with high refractive index, high abbe number, low specific gravity and high impact resistance. The lens material is suitable for ophthalmic lenses and is known as the first thiourethane based high-index lens material. Offered in a variety of grades, MR series yields safe, clear and lightweight lenses for eyewear users. Due to its unique physical properties and characteristics, the eyeglass lens material can be used in a variety of lens applications.

The MR series offers three different refractive index products (R.I. 1.60, 1.67, 1.74). With the inclusion of this high refractive index material, it is possible to achieve thinner lenses with the same strength as thicker lenses.

Since 2008, Mitsui Chemicals has strategically expanded its ophthalmic operations, progressing towards a total solution-based company for eyewear applications from monomers (low-, medium- and high-index as well as photochromic systems), to abrasion resistant, anti-fog and UV-cure coating solutions by acquiring the most recognized brands in these areas of technology. Going forward, Mitsui Chemicals strives to be the global leader in the area of raw material supply for the ophthalmic industry. To become a one-stop shop or single solution for all eyewear application offerings to address the optical labs and optical retailer markets.

Established in 1986, SDC Technologies develops, manufactures and globally distributes abrasion resistant coatings for application to plastic, glass and metals. These coatings add premium performance, appearance and durability to eyewear, sunglasses, safety lenses, and other custom applications. In 1990 SDC Technologies expanded into the European market with investment in product distribution, marketing and technical resources. In 2008 SDC Technologies relocated and expanded headquarter manufacturing operations from Anaheim to Irvine, California. In 2013, SDC Technologies further expanded global operations with a new Singapore office to increase manufacturing capabilities, supply chain management, sales, customer care, and quality assurance for the Asia-Pacific region.

ACQUISITION OF SUBSIDIARY SDC TECHNOLOGIES; ABRASION-RESISTANT COATINGS

In 2008 Mitsui Chemicals acquired SDC Technologies, based in Irvine, California (USA), the pioneer of innovative performance-based abrasion resistant coatings used in a variety of applications from aerospace and automotive parts to eyewear.

Established in 1986, SDC Technologies acquired FSI Coating Technologies, formerly Film Specialties, Inc., founded in 1986 to develop and market anti-fog scratch resistant hard coating, film and sheet products for commercial and industrial markets. A pioneering champion
of condensation control material science, FSI Coating Technologies provides solutions to the automotive, commercial refrigeration, electronics, medical, safety, security, sunglass and sports eyewear industries.

In 2011 Mitsui Chemicals acquired Acomon AG, globally recognized for its lower index optical monomers RAV 7® used to provide exceptional clarity and durability. Acomon was carved out 2007 as the optical monomer business, formerly part of Chemtura in 2005, with origins dating back to AKZO in 1980 and Enichem in 1981. The comprehensive portfolio of Mitsui Chemicals MR series premium high-index, and Acomon’s RAV 7 low-index optical lens materials combined with SDC Technologies innovative coatings allow us to deliver a complete product solution to the ophthalmic community.

**2013-2014 ACQUISITIONS AND EXPANSION**

In 2013 Mitsui Chemicals acquired KOC Solution established in 1999 as a leading Korean manufacturer and distributor of plastic optical lenses monomers to expand worldwide sales of its competitive edge in the mid and high-index lens market. The globally recognized KOC product range includes mid- and high-index, photochromic as well as impact resistant lens materials. This acquisition also provides opportunities for expansion in the growing Chinese market through the manufacturing and sales sites owned by KOC, which are located in areas where China’s ophthalmic optical related businesses are concentrated.

In 2014 Mitsui Chemicals acquired Corning Incorporated’s SunSensors operations to bolster its global ophthalmic lens materials business while breaking into the rapidly growing global photochromic lens market. SunSensors was developed in 1999 as one of the first plastic photochromic lens materials. The company will develop and sell competitive new photochromic lens materials.

**LENS TECHNOLOGY; UV-CURE COATINGS**

In 2014 subsidiary SDC purchased a majority ownership of LTI Coating Technologies, LLC (formerly Lens Technology I, LLC) or (LTI) strengthening its advanced technology global expansion in high performance abrasion resistant coating solutions. LTI is the recognized leader in the development and manufacture of high performance, proprietary UV curable anti-scratch coatings for the ophthalmic market. LTI was formed in 1986 to address the optical industry’s requirement for hard coatings and tintable coatings for plastic and polycarbonate lenses. LTI is a world leader in ophthalmic hard coatings with a major market share of the optical laboratory market and has received four Awards of Excellence from the Optical Laboratories Association for best in class coating equipment.

**CONTINUOUS INNOVATION AND EXPANSION IN OPHTHALMIC SOLUTIONS**

Mitsui Chemicals is on track to offer more and more ophthalmic solutions with every coming year. Through continuing investment in research and development, complementary acquisitions that create synergy, and forging strong strategic partnerships to accelerate technological innovation, Mitsui Chemicals goal is to become the premiere leader in raw material supply for the eyewear industry for decades to come.