

## PRESS RELEASE

2004-14/06

### Berliner Glas Enters Strategic Alliance with Mitsui Chemicals Europe

Optical plasma display panel filters (PDPF) of Mitsui Chemicals Europe GmbH are forthwith produced at the Schwäbisch Hall facility of the Berliner Glas Group, Berliner Glas KG Herbert Kubatz GmbH & Co., in Germany. The strategic allegiance of the two companies ensures the production of the Mitsui filters in Europe for a number of years. Berliner Glas provides the experience with regard to production as well as the manufacturing environment to the alliance. The product and process-related know-how as well as the distribution of the customer-specific and technologically variable PDPF under the brand name "FILTOP" are provided by the partner Mitsui Chemicals.

The alliance starts out with an annual production capacity of 250,000 optical filters for various plasma displays. Berliner Glas built a new production hall and increased its clean room capacity (class 10,000) by 400 m<sup>2</sup> to produce the panes laminated with a special foil. As a result, the Berliner Glas Group is also prepared for the future production of additional high quality products or component groups.

In addition to a new production area of approximately 1,500 m<sup>2</sup>, this strategic alliance provides additional decisive benefits for the Schwäbisch Hall facility.

Jörg Bannicke, responsible for the business area Technical Glass at Berliner Glas: "The expanded state-of-the-art production means enable us to noticeably enhance the Schwäbisch Hall facility and generate long-term competitive advantages. That benefits the job security in the region and gives an important signal for the future of our technical glass processing. We add an important component to our product portfolio and participate in one of the growth markets in the display sector."

#### **About BERLINER GLAS:**

Berliner Glas is a provider for the high quality finishing of display panels with various functions that covers the entire glass processing spectrum from etching, laminating, printing, or coating to thermal vacuum deforming.

In addition, the Berliner Glas Group manufactures high-precision optical components and assemblies, technical glass, and individual system solutions for the entire photonics industry. The company employs a staff of approximately 630 in Germany, Switzerland, and the United States.

#### **About MITSUI CHEMICALS:**

Mitsui Chemicals, Inc., is a broadly diversified group of chemical companies that holds a



Berliner Glas KGaA  
Herbert Kubatz GmbH & Co.  
Waldkraiburger Strasse 5  
D-12347 Berlin

Tel. +49 (0) 30/609 05-0  
Fax +49 (0) 30/609 05-100  
[www.berlinerglas.de](http://www.berlinerglas.de)

competitive position in the global market and extensively benefits the society by supplying its customers with high quality products and services as well as innovations and products that take the global environment into consideration.

The consolidated group employs a staff of 12,660 and achieved a turnover of US. 8 billion for the business year ending on March 31, 2003. Mitsui Chemicals Europe GmbH is the marketing and sales office for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. For further information, please visit [www.mitsui-chem.co.jp](http://www.mitsui-chem.co.jp).

**Contact:**

Berliner Glas KGaA  
Herbert Kubatz GmbH & Co.  
Waldkraiburger Str. 5  
D-12347 Berlin  
[www.berlinerglas.com](http://www.berlinerglas.com)

Astrid Freiding  
Marketing/Communications  
Phone: +49 30 60905-368  
Fax: +49 30 60 90 5-100  
[freiding@berlinerglas.de](mailto:freiding@berlinerglas.de)