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News Release

June 19, 2015

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany Invests €30 Million in New OLED Production Plant in Darmstadt

- **Company to strengthen its position in OLED business with new unit**
- **OLED technology has the potential to become the technology of the future for displays and lighting**

Darmstadt, Germany, June 19, 2015 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading company for innovative, top-quality high-tech products in healthcare, life science and performance materials, laid the cornerstone for a new OLED materials production plant in Darmstadt today. Production of high-purity OLED materials for use in state-of-the-art displays and lighting systems is scheduled to start in the approximately 2,000 square meter building in July 2016. With the investment, which amounts to around €30 million, the company is strengthening its position in the OLED business. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany aims to be a leading supplier of OLED materials by 2018. The company wishes to make use of its experience in the liquid crystals business, where it is the global leader.

Organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs) are semiconducting organic materials which emit light and luminesce when electric voltage is applied. They are particularly suited for applications in the very latest generation of displays and lighting because they provide brilliant colors and sharp images from any viewing angle. In addition, they have a long lifespan and are highly energy-efficient.

“The new OLED production plant is one of the largest single investments that our company has made at the Darmstadt site in recent years. It reflects the absolute

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Merck KGaA

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highest technical standards,” said Bernd Reckmann, Member of the Executive Board of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. The cornerstone laying ceremony was also attended by Stefan Grüttner, Minister of Labor of the German federal state of Hesse, and Jochen Partsch, mayor of the city of Darmstadt. “OLED technology has the potential to become the technology of the future for displays and lighting. We invested significant sums in this technology at an early stage. The new production plant is thus another important link in this chain,” Reckmann added.

With around 100 guests attending the cornerstone laying ceremony, Reckmann took a look at the future of OLED technology. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany is cooperating with the Japanese printing technology specialist Seiko Epson on printable displays for OLED screens. These materials stand out due to their tremendous innovative potential in smartphone, tablets and televisions. Flexible or rollable screens are also possible for private consumers in the form of ultra-thin, energy-saving displays for portable devices or large video walls that are produced with OLEDs using thin-film technology. The automotive industry as well as the fields of medicine and education are also opening up new possibilities for the materials.

“The fact that the company is still investing and thus creating new jobs at the location where it was founded nearly 350 years ago is good sign for the region,” said Stefan Grüttner, Minister of Labor of the state of Hesse. “Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany is a substantial force behind the large number of innovative and strong companies in Hesse.”

“As a research-based company, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany is a pillar of Darmstadt, the city of science,” said Jochen Partsch, mayor of Darmstadt. “Both the new OLED production plant and generally the current investments in the expansion of the global headquarters of a major company here in Darmstadt are a welcome sign of commitment to this location.”

Please find more information [here](#).



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Merck KGaA of Darmstadt, Germany, is a leading company for innovative and top-quality high-tech products in healthcare, life science and performance materials. The company has six businesses – Biopharmaceuticals, Consumer Health, Allergopharma, Biosimilars, Life Science and Performance Materials – and generated sales of € 11.3 billion in 2014. Around 39,000 employees work in 66 countries to improve the quality of life for patients, to foster the success of customers and to help meet global challenges. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company – since 1668, the company has stood for innovation, business success and responsible entrepreneurship. Holding an approximately 70% interest, the founding family remains the majority owner of the company to this day. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany holds the global rights to the Merck name and brand. The only exceptions are Canada and the United States, where the company operates as EMD Serono, EMD Millipore and EMD Performance Materials.