

Denka to Establish the Automotive Materials & Solutions Department

Denka Company Limited (hereinafter "Denka") hereby announces its decision to establish the Automotive Materials & Solutions Department. This department will collectively handle new R&D themes undertaken at the request of Groupwide business units, with a focus on next-generation automobiles and automotive parts.

1. Name of the New Department

Automotive Materials & Solutions Department (Established under the Electronics & Innovative Products Division)

2. Date of Establishment

July 1, 2016

3. Objective of Establishment

The automotive industry is rapidly evolving as it moves to address emerging demand for environment-friendly vehicles like electric and fuel cell vehicles (EVs and FCVs) and the upcoming commercialization of autonomous driving technologies. Among the responses to the changing industry landscape, a number of development projects aimed at applying unconventional automotive technologies are now under way. And, although automakers and auto parts makers are pursuing innovation in such areas as material processing, Denka believes that it can go a step further and play a significant role by creating a new material itself.

Boasting a solid track record in serving the automotive industry, Denka has long been supplying specialty synthetic rubbers, including chloroprene rubber, as well as ultra-pure acetylene black for use in lithium ion secondary battery cells. Furthermore, we have robust expertise in the production of a variety of organic and inorganic materials as well as thermal conductive materials and adhesives, not to mention know-how in such fields as polymer design and processing. Looking to better coordinate our core technological strengths in these areas and to develop new technologies, we thus decided to establish the Automotive Materials & Solutions Department. We expect this department to serve as a key business unit for creating novel offerings with outstanding performance and new functions never before realized by conventional products.

In line with the Denka100 management plan growth strategies, Denka is focusing its management resources on growth drivers and the development of next-generation products. Specifically, we have positioned the environment and energy fields as priority fields. Looking ahead, we will pay close attention to the latest market needs while promoting the development and proposal of user-oriented products and solutions to help our customers overcome the challenges they are now facing. At the same time, Denka is committed to playing an important role in the creation of environment-friendly vehicles that are attractive to drivers and capable of ensuring driving safety. In these ways, we will contribute to the sound development of society.

For inquiries: