

News Release

February 06, 2018

Komori Corporation Concludes Investment Contract with PI-CRYSTAL, Incorporated

Komori Corporation (Sumida-ku, Tokyo; President, Representative Director and COO: Satoshi Mochida) has concluded an investment contract with PI-CRYSTAL, Incorporated (Osaka, Osaka Prefecture; CEO: Yosuke Ito), which is aiming to commercialize organic semiconductor technologies. The following is an outline.

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Komori Corporation has concluded an investment contract with PI-CRYSTAL, Incorporated (Osaka, Osaka Prefecture; CEO: Yosuke Ito), which is aiming to commercialize organic semiconductor technologies. Further, Komori and PI-CRYSTAL have agreed to take the opportunity of this investment contract to deepen their relationship through their collaborative development and joint business model building. PI-CRYSTAL is a startup leading the organic electronics market. In addition to having its own high-performance organic semiconductor material and single crystallization method, the company is one of the few companies that can produce useful functions such as sensing, signal processing and communications on a single film substrate with only organic semiconductor circuits. PI-CRYSTAL will invest in equipment and facilities with this capital and promote the development of sensor-equipped RFIDs while enhancing its infrastructure and trying to revitalize the organic semiconductor market.

With the rise of IoT (Internet of Things), the demand for semiconductors in sensors and communication devices is dramatically increasing, and inorganic semiconductors, mainly made of silicon, are used for many of these needs. Organic semiconductors have gained attention in recent years for benefits such as low manufacturing cost, softness, thinness, and lightness. On the other hand, the major issue of existing organic semiconductors was their low carrier mobility (ease of movement of electrons and holes in substances), which is directly connected to their performance. Since PI-CRYSTAL has a single crystal organic semiconductor, its carrier mobility is far higher than the others. Additionally, PI-CRYSTAL can realize extremely low power consumption because of its organic CMOS circuits.

Komori develops gravure offset printing presses that can form fine lines by printing and has advanced research and development in the field of printed electronics by using this equipment in the joint development with the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) of Taiwan of a fully printable capacitive touchpanel using a high-definition printed metal mesh. Then by using the screen printing technology and sales channel of Seria Corporation, which became a member of the Komori Group in 2014, technology development and the expansion of the PE business have been further advanced.

We believe that if we can combine the advanced printing and mass production technologies developed by Komori with the high-performance organic semiconductor device manufacturing technology of PI-CRYSTAL through the collaborative relationship triggered by this investment contract, we can expect to mass produce sensor devices for a variety of applications that will contribute significantly to the expansion of IoT.

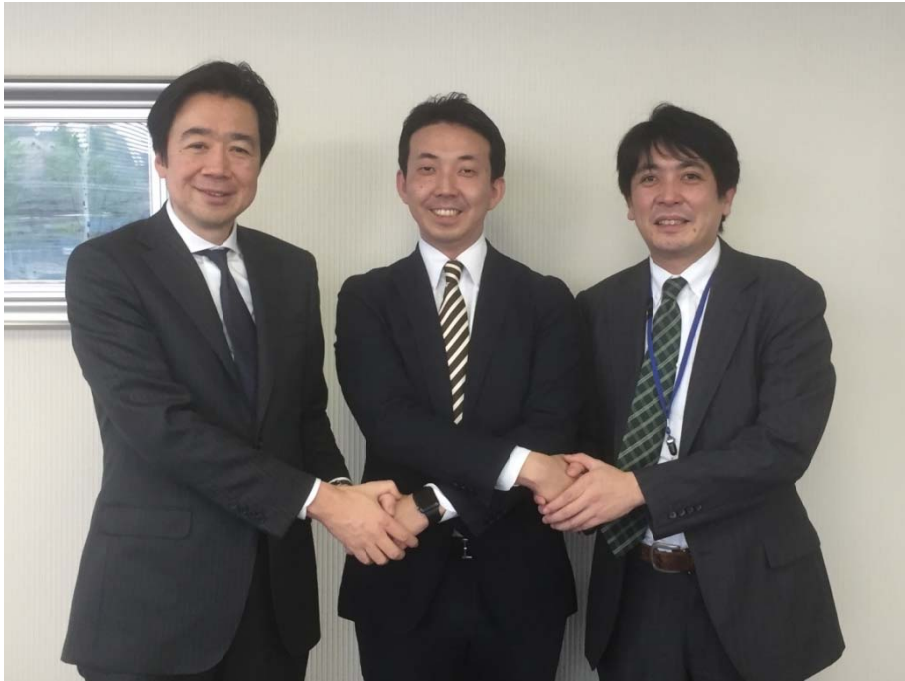
PI-CRYSTAL CEO Yosuke Ito commented as follows regarding this agreement: “Advanced printing technology is indispensable for the mass production of organic semiconductors. As a result of this investment contract with Komori Corporation, I feel that we not only raised funds but also acquired technology to accelerate mass production development.”

Komori Director, Operating Officer and Head of Corporate Planning Office Eiji Kajita commented as follows: “We expect PI-CRYSTAL’s advanced and original organic semiconductor technology to play an important role in the coming IoT society. Through joint development, we will provide Komori’s printing technology and contribute to accelerating PI-CRYSTAL’s growth and expanding Japan’s IoT industry.

■ About PI-CRYSTAL

PI-CRYSTAL is a startup launched by Professor Junichi Takeya of the Graduate School of Frontier Sciences at the University of Tokyo during his tenure at Osaka University. Since its foundation in 2013, the company has undertaken joint development with universities and demonstration trials in cooperation with corporations that want to implement organic electronics technologies.

The company aims to contribute to IoT throughout the world by providing sensor devices, increasing production efficiency, and creating new values for a variety of industries. PI-CRYSTAL’s vision is “Realizing a more productive and creative world by our original organic semiconductor technologies”.



(From left) Eiji Kajita, Director, Operating Officer and Head of Corporate Planning Office, Komori; Yosuke Ito, CEO, PI-CRYSTAL; and Dai Sakata of the Komori Corporate Planning Office