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## **Plastic Electronics holds huge promise for the future. Europe is creating momentum.**

*At the first Conference and Showcase Plastic Electronics 2005 held in Frankfurt October 4 and 5, over 400 representatives of science and industry shared views on how to collaborate in developing and launching a whole new generation of electronic applications and products based on polymer technology.*

Frankfurt, October 6, 2005

After the two days Plastic Electronics Conference at the Messe Frankfurt Germany, the following conclusion can be drawn: Amazing new application developments will make their way one by one out of the labs of the academia, the development centers of applied research, and those of both small and large electronic companies onto the marketplaces any time now. Based on their properties and insulators, semi-conductive devices and as conductive materials polymers or plastics are now composing the building blocks of a whole new industry.

Inroads in existing high-end markets for electronic products solely based on full-fledged polymer technologies are not to be anticipated on the short term. The position of the processing industry is seen as critical to its success of plastic electronics. Particularly a number of printing technologies such as ink-jetting, roll-to-roll gravure and off-set are seen to enable the multifunctional low-cost and light weight product promises for the future. Professor Sir Richard Friend, one of the prominent scientists present at the Conference, expressed "the gap between the productivity of silicon and polymers is closing rapidly. It's only a matter of time."

To show that the market is moving rapidly, new ultramodern facilities for manufacturing prototypes, demonstrators and products were announced at the conference. Plastic Logic, a leading developer of plastic electronics technology has planned a new 30,000sq ft Technology Centre in the North of England. This new Centre is coming on-stream in the second half of 2007 with strong financial support from One NorthEast, the local Regional Development Authority. The Technology Centre will play a central role in developing a plastic electronics manufacturing infrastructure in the North East of Britain. Independent experts forecast the global market for plastic or organic electronics could reach \$30Bn by 2015 and up to \$250Bn by 2025.

Mr. Stuart Evans, CEO of Plastic Logic and chairman of the Industry Board of the Plastic Electronics Conference says: *"Plastic electronics is entering a new phase: the race is on from research & invention, to customers & products. This new Centre will make a major contribution in ensuring Europe retains a leading position as this new industry develops."*

In the Netherlands such a testing facility for manufacturing prototypes, demonstrators and products will be opened. On October 11 in Eindhoven (NL) Orgatronics will be introduced to the market. Orgatronics provides the research and development facilities and services needed for the development of Organic Electronics products and OLED's in particular. Orgatronics is bridging the need for technology platforms for the assessment of materials and equipment and provides access to research results allowing its customers to accelerate the development process and time to market.

Orgatronics offers access to an advanced R&D line, the Orgatron, which incorporates the latest developed processes needed to produce complete devices from substrate in to finished product out. The Orgatronics facility provides added value for all who are or want to be involved in the application or development of this emerging technology.

Ron Kok, CEO of OTB Engineering and speaker at the conference: *"The Orgatron is our advanced research and development line based on OTB's inline production system allowing easy transfer from R&D to full production of OLED's. The Orgatron uses advanced inkjet printing, vacuum deposition and thin film encapsulation processes."*

Both centres aim to become parts of the core area of the plastic electronics eco-system in Europe.

Market researchers presenting at the Plastic Electronics 2005 Conference, such as ISupply, IDtech-ex, and IT-Strategies all agreed that the technology of plastic electronics induces low-cost applications in printed wear - such as intelligent labels and tags and “interactive packaging” in the very near future. Cooperation between science and industry was expressed to be indispensable and necessary for its success in the past, present and future.

The conference has fulfilled its ambition to address the wide range of emerging scientific topics leading to commercial applications. In this respect it has proven to be unique in its kind. Expert speakers from around the world presented their latest achievements in the fields of Flexible Displays, Organic Based Sensors, Photovoltaics, Printed Electronics and Smart Packaging, Lighting and Signage, Organic Hybrid and Smart Textiles.

Delegates, speakers and science and industry board members from all over the world came to Frankfurt to explore future business opportunities, innovative technologies and learn how to become a part of a potentially multi-billion euro market. Countries that were represented were Japan, USA, China, South Africa, Finland, United Kingdom, Italy, Scotland, Russia, The Netherlands, Singapore, Germany, France, Switzerland, Taiwan ROC, Sweden, Canada, Greece, Belgium, Liechtenstein, and Austria.

Parallel to the Conference the Plastic Electronics Showcase took place with exhibiting companies showing their ambition as fast movers in the field of organic electronics.

#### **Conference Plastic Electronics 2006**

The Conference of 2005 has shown that scientists and industry leaders need a marketplace to meet annually to stay tuned on the evolving opportunities and technologies. Focus of the Conference in 2006 will therefore be on enhancing the market developments and market penetration of the anticipated ravishing new products and applications. The two day ‘Plastic Electronics 2006’ Conference and Showcase will be held on October 24 and 25, 2006 in Frankfurt.

#### *About the Plastic Electronics Foundation*

*The initiator of the conference is the Plastic Electronics Foundation. The Plastic Electronics Foundation is a non-profit organisation, established in 2005, with the main objective to bring together science and industry in order to develop and to promote the technology of organic electronics jointly and globally.*

*This interaction in turn should lead to attractive new applications and products with higher functionality at lower prices for the end-user, combined with lower costs in terms of use of natural resources and contributing to a more sustainable economy and society in the future.*

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Note for the editors / Not for publication purposes:

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Attached photo material, from left to right: Dr. Hermann Hauser (Co-founder Amadeus Capital Partners Ltd), Mr. Stuart Evans, MBA (CEO, Plastic Logic Ltd), Mr. Ed van den Kieboom (President Plastic Electronics Foundation), Mr. Ron Kok (CEO, OTB Engineering), Dr. Seamus Burns (Display Group Leader Plastic Logic Ltd).

Attached image: New Technology Centre Plastic Logic Ltd.