Osram licenses Everlight and signs Cree up to 2005

Osram GmbH, Munich, signed a patent license contract with Everlight Electronics Co. Ltd, Taipei, enabling Everlight to manufacture and sell surfacemountable light emitting diodes (SMT LEDs) for white and coloured light. The agreement also enables Everlight to manufacture and sell other white LEDs with conversion technology, for which Osram holds patents. Typical applications for these products include back-lighting for mobile phone and car radio displays.

"Over the years, we have built a very strong position and have a good deal of intellectual property at our disposal," explains Dr. Rudiger Mueller, CEO Osram Opto Semiconductors. "We are now willing to grant licenses to other companies. The demand for SMT LEDs and white LEDs is growing so quickly that for capacity reasons, we are not able to provide all the products the market requires."

The company signed patent contracts with Nichia and Rohm last year, and, for the first time, it has entered into a contract with a company from Taiwan.

SMT mounting forms are very small and facilitate further processing in industrial series manufacturing. Osram holds patents for several mounting forms and packages for SMT LEDs. Conversion technology for LEDs was developed by the Osram Opto Semiconductors subsidiary in Germany.

Earlier this month Cree signed an agreement with OSRAM Opto Semiconductors for the purchase of at least 500m LED chips over a 21-month period starting October 2003 to June 2005. The agreement covers Cree’s entire Opto product line, including standard, mid-bright and Xbright LED chip families, as well as silicon carbide (SiC) wafers. Cree’s revenues from sales under the agreement will depend on the mix of products OSRAM chooses to order.

Chuck Swoboda, Cree’s president and CEO said ‘OSRAM has been Cree’s largest end customer. [Its] commitment is a reflection of their technology and leadership strength in key markets, including automotive and mobile hand sets.”

LightPath Technologies projects Q1 results

LightPath Technologies Inc reports projected results for Q1 fiscal ‘04 include sales of approximately $1.8m. Operational cash use for the Q1 was approximately $0.6m.

Ken Brizel, president and CEO, notes, "We have made good strides toward continued improvement in materials costs and manufacturing yield to reduce our operating costs and break-even revenue point significantly.

"All this achieved while improving service to our existing customers and adding new customers and applications. We have added to our sales team in the last quarter and developed new products covering several higher growth non-telecom markets."

He concluded, "We are optimistic about our ability to grow within the markets we serve and our ability to address new markets and applications."

LightPath make optical products such as precision molded aspheric optics, Gradient glass proprietary collimator assemblies, laser components using proprietary automation technology, higher-level assemblies and packing solutions.

‘Markets for integrated light emitter

Competitive Technologies Inc signed separate one-time fee agreements with Merck & Co, Roche Holdings AG and Toshiba Corporation for each company’s use of CTT technologies.

Toshiba agreed to pay CTT a fee for any products they previously created from the patented method for producing an integrated semiconductor light emitter. The inventor, Nick Holonyak Jr, is the John Bardeen Chair and Professor at the Center for Advanced Study, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Both Merck and Roche are using the Rhodamine Derivatives patented technology in on-going research.

Each company has agreed to pay CTT a fee for the license rights to this technology during the patent period. The technology is the result of work done by Walter Mangel, Stephen Leytus, and Lee Melhado while at CTT’s client, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Toshiba’s 200mW blue-violet laser on view

On exhibition at CEATEC Japan 2003 at Makuhari Messe, Chiba prefecture, was Toshiba Corp’s gallium-nitride based blue-violet laser offering high optical output of 200mW, while claiming the lowest noise characteristics ever attained.

The laser performance meets the requirements for blue violet laser based optical disc systems that will emerge in the near future, including the ability to support dual layer and high-speed recording systems requiring a powerful laser and an essential component for next-g optical disc players and drives after current red laser based DVDs.

High quantum efficiency is achieved by precision optimisation of the density of impurities used to dope the laser and maximize optical output. This achieves a lower operating current at higher optical power output. Toshiba’s coating technology at light emission facets of the laser achieves high optical output of 200mW, and the noise level of -132dB/Hz - the best ever achieved.

Toshiba’s original semiconductor process technology was applied to achieving a device structure that assures to supply stable electric current at active area to generate laser light, producing stable optical laser beam emission.

In September, Toshiba and Samsung set up a JV to cover integration of their respective optical-disc drive business. The new company is to be 51% owned by Toshiba; 49% owned by Samsung Electronics and consolidated by Toshiba. The JV will be headquartered in Japan. Its wholly owned subsidiary in Korea will control its operations there.