

***Ichikoh Industries, Ltd. and Harrison Toshiba Lighting Co., Ltd.
successfully develop
mercury free HID (High Intensity Discharge) head lamp system***

**Ichikoh Industries, Ltd.
Harrison Toshiba Lighting Co., Ltd.**

Ichikoh Industries, Ltd. and Harrison Toshiba Lighting Co., Ltd. Have been successful in the joint development of the next generation mercury free HID head lamp system without using any mercury, a material harmful to environment, for the first time in the world. The two companies will jointly promote international standardization of this product aiming at commercialization in 2003.

Recently, movement for restricting or prohibiting the use of environment burdening substance is expanding on a worldwide basis because increasing concern over the global environmental issues. Regarding HID lamp, EU put ELV (End of Life Vehicle) directive into effect by announcing on the EU official gazette and decided to ban the use of mercury and lead for automobile lamps. In the US, restriction of the use of mercury has started in several states.

In line with such movement in the world, Japan Automobile Industries Association, since 1998, has been requesting the automobile lamp industry to stop using mercury and lead as soon as possible and to promote development of a substitute. And the industry has been working in this direction.

On the other hand, HID lamp is rapidly growing in the world market because of its features such as lower power consumption and approximately 3 times brightness comparing to the halogen head lamp which is the main stream today. This bulb, however, is a high pressurized discharge lamp in which mercury is contained. Mercury has been considered to be an indispensable material for HID lamp in order to maintain electric characteristic or efficiency by highly pressurizing the inside of the luminous tube and to achieve the chromaticity meeting the standards. And there was no appropriate substitute. As a result, this material has been reluctantly used.

Under such background, Harrison Toshiba Lighting Co., Ltd. studied for a material which could substitute mercury, putting importance to maintenance of efficiency and chromaticity, changed parameters of the bulb corresponding to the new material, and finally developed a mercury free HID bulb having the efficiency equivalent to that of the conventional HID bulb and a ballast for controlling the bulb to its optimum level. Ichikoh Industries, Ltd., whose slogan is bright HID head lamp friendly to both environment and people, combined the newly developed bulb and ballast together with its head lamp of new optical design, and successfully developed the next generation environment friendly head lamp.

The two companies will continue research and development for this HID lamp system aiming at the commercial production in two years while they try to spread this product in the world market by joint promotion to automobile manufacturers.

For further information, please contact;

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Related Information

Outline of Ichikoh Industries, Ltd.
Established on: December 20, 1939
President: Mr. Mamoru Mochimaru
Address: 10-18, Higashi-gotanda 5-chome, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo
Paid in capital: 8.92953 billion Yen
Annual sales: 88.66 billion Yen
Number of employees: 2,968

Business items: Development and manufacturing of lamps and mirrors for automobiles.

Outline of Harrison Toshiba Lighting Co., Ltd.
Established on: May 27, 1950
President: Mr. Hisao Kobayashi
Address: 2-1, Asahi-cho 5-chome, Imabari-shi, Ehime-ken
Paid in capital: 4.11 billion Yen
Annual sales: 35.456 billion Yen
Number of employees: 1,200

Business items: Development and manufacturing of light sources for industrial applications (light bulbs and light sources for automobiles, light sources for copy machines and printers, LCD back lights, etc.)