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Polema opens metal powder plant in Taiwan

Susie Pan, Taipei; Rodney Chan, DIGITIMES [Wednesday 5 March 2008]

Switzerland-based Polema, a member of Industrial Metallurgical Holding (IMH), has opened a new plant in Taiwan to produce metal powders, including materials based on zinc oxide (ZnO) that can be used in the production of thin-film solar cells and flat panel displays.

Zinc oxide-based powders can be applied to both glass and plastic substrates, making them materials for flexible displays, the company said.

While currently TFT LCD panels use massive amounts of indium tin oxide (ITO) powders, supply of the rare indium may run short in the long run, industry sources said. As the chemical used to produce ZnO is more common and more widely available at lower prices, ZnO is considered to be a replacement for ITO, the sources said.

Polema said its gallium-doped zinc oxide (GZO) can also be used for the production of thin-film solar cells.

With Taiwan's solar cell industry gaining momentum and its LCD panel industry growing strong, Polema set up its branch office in Taiwan in 2005. Its new plant is located at Wuku in northern Taipei County.



*Polema executives cut the ribbon to open a new plant in Taiwan
Photo: Susie Pan, Digitimes, March 2008*

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