



NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2004



Varioptic To Enforce Liquid Lens Patent Rights

Lyon, 17 Marc 2004 - Varioptic (www.varioptic.com) today announced its intentions to actively enforce the patents it holds on the use of electrowetting technology to create variable focus lenses. This decision follows the announcement on March 3 2004 by Philips Electronics that it planned to demonstrate fluid lens based on electrowetting technology that can be manufactured in high volumes.

On March 9 2004, Varioptic officially informed Philips about its patents and asked Philips on what basis it considers itself eligible to create any product incorporating this liquid-lens technology. Varioptic's lawyers are convinced that the technology incorporated in the Philips' demonstration product is covered by the scope of protection of Varioptic's patents and that any of Philips' products incorporating such technology will infringe Varioptic patents.

With patents for the electrowetting technology deposited in Europe, US and Asia in 1997 and 1999, Varioptic has been the pioneer and innovator of electrowetting technology and its founder Bruno Berge is the established world authority on this area of scientific research. Varioptic has already entered into an early production stage for fluid-focus lenses and agreed commercial relationships with component manufacturers.

Varioptic's decision to enforce its patents follows a written request to Gerard Leisterlee, Chairman, President and CEO of Philips Electronics requesting the basis on which it intends to produce products using Varioptic's patented technology without a license or other agreement. The response to this letter has made it necessary for Varioptic to take the legal steps towards the enforcement of its patents and intellectual property assets.



Samsung Electro-Mechanics (SEMCO) selects Varioptic's electrowetting technology for its camera module products

World Premiere at CeBIT (March 18-24, 2004)
SEMCO to unveil electrowetting lens demonstration of fully running hard-coded auto-focus camera module

Hannover, Germany; 18 March 2004 - Samsung Electro-Mechanics Co (SEMCO - www.sem.samsung.com), a major global player in electronic components industry, and Varioptic (www.varioptic.com) a pioneer in electrowetting technology, have signed a collaborative agreement for the joint development of the advanced liquid lenses based on Varioptic's patented technology, which is being applied to SEMCO's auto-focused camera module.

A fully implemented auto-focus camera module demonstration with liquid lenses and electrowetting driver IC will be shown at CeBIT on SEMCO's booth (Hall #13, booth #B24)

Varioptic's technology is the result of a 10 years research at Université Joseph Fourier and at Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon. The founder and inventor of the technology is Bruno Berge,

former research scientist at CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research) and then professor at Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon.

"SEMCO has chosen Varioptic as a technology source of liquid lens, which provides unique strength of auto-focus function for high resolution Camera module in the mobile industry. With this technology, we are developing camera modules targeting for mobile phone and PDA for the world-class mobile phone companies." (Mr. Hong, V.P. of SEMCO)

"SEMCO - one of the leaders in the camera module market – partnered early on with us and invested in the Varioptic's electrowetting technology, daring to take brand-new technology into its camera module products. The successful collaboration between SEMCO and Varioptic allowed us to turn electrowetting theory and technology for our patented lens application into actual products rapidly." (Mr. Paillard, CEO of Varioptic)

About Samsung Electro-Mechanics Co.

Since its foundation in 1973 as a subsidiary of Samsung Group in the electronic industry, Samsung Electro-Mechanics has positioned one of the leaders of the electronic field in 21st century. With the beginning of new era, the company is focusing on digital components for mobile industry as a "solution provider".

For further information, please visit the website: www.sem.samsung.com