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CeeLite Launches New Lec Panels With Eastman's Encapsulation Technology

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Kingsport, TN - CeeLite, the world's first commercial manufacturer of Light Emitting Capacitor (LEC) technology, and Eastman Chemical Company have signed an agreement to manufacture CeeLite LEC panels using Eastman's patented Encapsulation Technology and *Spectar* copolyester. This partnership will allow CeeLite LEC panels to provide versatile lighting solutions for a variety of outdoor applications, ranging from advertising on buses and billboards, to retail window signage, street signage and sports and entertainment mobile merchandising.

Using electrodes to stimulate light-emitting natural phosphors embedded between thin plastic sheets, CeeLite LEC panels have provided high-quality, uniform illumination for electronics and surface lighting projects over the past two years. Growing market demand, however, has fueled the need for the LEC panels to be more robust, allowing for use as complete lighting systems for self-installed interior signage applications and outdoor environments with harsh weather conditions. As a result, CeeLite needed to enhance the traditional flexible films originally used for the LEC panel surface with a system that would provide optimal barrier properties to withstand outdoor environmental conditions, including moisture, heat and humidity. After researching various options, CeeLite turned to Eastman for its Encapsulation Technology.

Eastman's proprietary Encapsulation Technology uses *Spectar* copolyester as the transparent substrate to encapsulate a variety of images, textiles, botanicals and natural inclusions, along with Light Emitting Capacitor (LEC) panels, for architectural and surface lighting applications. Sheet made of *Spectar* combines crystal-clear aesthetics with excellent durability. Its inherent toughness allows the sheet to be used in the ultra-thin gauges that CeeLite LEC panels require and its chemical resistance enables trouble-free cleaning with most agents used on outdoor panels. In addition, *Spectar* is also easy-to-fabricate, which permits cutting, drilling, routing, and screwing without the need for special tools.

"The balanced features of Eastman's Encapsulation Technology will allow CeeLite customers to use our products in new applications to transform any surface into a light source," says Gabrielle Santulli, marketing director, CeeLite. "This will provide a more energy-efficient alternative to traditional lighting sources, since CeeLite LEC panels consume minimal quantities of electricity relative to incandescent, neon and florescent lights."

In the past, Eastman's Encapsulation Technology has been focused on decorative aesthetic applications that require design flexibility and dramatic visual effects. Working with CeeLite will allow Eastman to accelerate growth of this technology through encapsulation of functional lighting inclusions.

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"Our partnership with CeeLite will serve to meet the increasingly diverse needs of professionals relying on solutions from the lighting industry," says Ryan Ferrara, field market development manager, Eastman. "We are happy to be a part of this new innovation and look forward to continuing our relationship with CeeLite in the future."

SOURCE: CeeLite and Eastman Chemical Company

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