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# TAIWAN Headlines Wednesday, March 14, 2001

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#### Wednesday, March 14, 2001

#### Acer Display, Unipac Optoelectronics to merge

Published: March 13, 2001 Source: The Taiwan Economic News

cer Display Technology, Inc. and Unipac Optoelectronics Corp., two of Tanward largest TFT-LCD (thin film transistor-liquid crystal display) manufacturers with a to become the world's second biggest manufacturer in the field

Acer Inc., the largest domestic computer manufacturer, is the largest shareholds of Acer Display while United Microelectronics Corp. (UMC), the second largest provide wafer foundry services in Taiwan, holds the largest stake in Unipad among all shareholders. Acer Chairman Stan Shih and UMC Chairman Robert H. C. Tis except announced the merger on Tuesday.

The merger is based on the exchange of one share of Acer Display's stock (or 1.1.1 shares of Unipac's, with the merged enterprise named AU Optronics Corp. with the merger to take effect on October 1 this year. The new company will have initial capital NT\$29.7 billion.

The motivation of the merger is to combine both companies' production capacities as operational resources to attain operational economies of scale and thereby become more competitive globally. AU Optronics will have five TET-LCD plants, one of which based on first-generation technology, three on 3.5-generation technology, entropy fourth-generation technology, with total production capacity equivalent to a map the consumption of 470,000 glass substrates (to be cut into TET-LCD panels) transport in 3.5-generation technology.

AU Optronics' production capacity will account for 12.5 percent of the global total of the company will surpass LG PhilipsLCD (global production capacity share of trelex of percent) to become the world's second largest TFT-LCD maker next only to Skare or (14.2 percent). This new classification in the world market should prove very attractive of international investors, Tsao noted.

The merger creates a Taiwanese enterprise of world-level operational scale. Statindicated. There are currently 24 TFT-LCD makers in Taiwan, Japan, and South Four and the top five will eventually claim about 80 percent of the world market. Toac predicted.

The new company is expected to attain NT\$40 billion in revenue this year. In anticipal of fast business growth due to the effect of the merger, the company's annual revenue will rise to NT\$100 billion in three years. The two existing companies have nearly 6.00 employees; none will be laid off after the merger.

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**RECORDED: 12/09/2002** 

Friday, March 22, 2002

### Taiwan to become top supplier of large TFT-LCD panels: IEK

Published: March 22, 2002 Source: The Taiwan Economic News

aiwan is expected to unseat South Korea as the biggest producer of Lugar of thin-film transistor figuid-crystal display (TFT-LCD) panels in 2004, for our Economics & Knowledge Center (IEK) predicted.

The IEK was established under the Industrial Technology Research historical promote cooperation between the government and private sector.

On March 19, IEK industry analyst Liu Ching-chuen said that the addition of the fire generation TET-LCD plants in Taiwan would help the island surpass for its Europe TET-LCD panel production.

Taiwan currently has five major TFT-LCD makers: <u>AU Optronics (formerly Averagisplay Technology and Unipac Optoelectronics)</u>, Chunghwa Picture Tubes HannStar Display, Chi Mei Optoelectronics (CMO), and Quanta Display

The IEK also indicated that AU Optronics, CMO and Chunghwa are expected to become the world's third-, fourth- and fifth-largest TFT-LCD makers this year accounting for 12.3 percent, 11 percent and 7.7 percent of the global supply, respectively. The center added that Samsung Electronics and LG-Philips of the Korea would remain the top-two suppliers this year, while Hitachi and Same are expected to be ousted from the top-five list this year.

According to Liu, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan respectively supplied and repercent, 36 percent and 26 percent of the global demand for TFT-LCD panels or first quarter of this year. Liu said that although Taiwan would fall short of South in panel supply next year, it will eclipse its neighbor to the north by 2004, when of the island's fifth-generation plants reach full capacity.

With the arrival of the fifth-generation plants, Liu said, TFT-LCD output in Tork a steadily shift emphasis to 17-inch and 18-inch panels, instead of the 15-inch panels that are the standard size today.

The IEK said that Taiwan's TFT-LCD panel production volume is expected to be a 129 percent from last year, for the first time pulling ahead of Japan to become the second-largest supplier.

The center added that Taiwanese panel suppliers would be more competitive their South Korean rivals in the future as local makers are developing their fattigeneration business through "industry clusters," rather than going it alone are a tripattern in Korea.

Two such clusters in the making, the center said, are the LCD material zone under planning by CMO in southern Taiwan's Tainan Science-based Industrial Park, and opto-electronics industry zone under development by Chunghwa near its fifth generation plant in Taoyuan.

Both industrial zones are expected to evolve into industry clusters supplying other substrate, photo masks, color filters, back-light modules and other key componed for the flat panels. The congregation of these closely linked sectors is expected to help producers cut costs and enhance mutual cooperation.

The IEK predicted that the global TFT-LCD panel demand will reach about 64.4, million panels, up from last year's 44.95 million units. The volume is expected to to 80 million units next year and 100 million panels in 2004, the center added, with the strongest growth momentum from LCD monitors and TVs.

http://www.tanvanheadlines.gov.tw/20020322/20020322b1.html

PATENT REEL: 013558 FRAME: 0534