

## News Release

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## **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Acquires Ormet Circuits**

- **Acquisition to enhance position as semiconductor materials supplier**
- **Deal complements existing Integrated Circuit Materials business unit**

Darmstadt, Germany, December 14, 2015 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, today announced that it has acquired Ormet Circuits Inc., to strengthen its position as a materials supplier for the semiconductor industry.

Ormet is an early-stage, venture-capital-backed business located in San Diego, California. It has previously been owned by various institutional and private investors, of which PEI Funds, a US-based investment company, was the single largest shareholder. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, has already held a minority stake in Ormet and has now taken over all remaining shares. The parties have agreed not to disclose the purchase price.

“Ormet has developed conductive pastes based on a unique environmental friendly technology which can solve technical challenges in semiconductor packaging. This is particularly interesting due to the growing demand for highly integrated devices such as mobile phones or wearables”, said Rico Wiedenbruch, Head of the Integrated Circuit Materials business unit. Semiconductor packaging is the final stage of semiconductor device fabrication in which the device is assembled and encased.

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Ormet's pastes utilize a novel, patented sintering technology. This technology makes it possible to replace lead-based solders used in semiconductor applications, as well as enhance the reliability of devices when they are operating at elevated temperatures.

The company's Integrated Circuit Materials business unit, part of the Group's Performance Materials business sector, already has a strong position as a semiconductor materials supplier. Ormet's technology will now allow Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, to further strengthen this position and will diversify the product portfolio.

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is counting on innovative technologies to tap into additional growth areas in the electronics industry to benefit even more from the increasing demand for electronic devices beyond displays. By combining various competencies, the company will be in an even stronger position in the future to serve the demand for materials with increasingly complex functionalities.

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Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is a leading science and technology company in healthcare, life science and performance materials. Around 50,000 employees work to further develop technologies that improve and enhance life – from biopharmaceutical therapies to treat cancer or multiple sclerosis, cutting-edge systems for scientific research and production, to liquid crystals for smartphones and LCD televisions. In 2014, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 11.3 billion in 66 countries. Founded in 1668, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company. The founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed corporate group. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, holds the global rights to the Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, name and brand. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the company operates as EMD Serono, MilliporeSigma and EMD Performance Materials.