

News Release

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Liquid Crystal Windows business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, and Guardian Glass Announce Strategic Partnership

- **The strategic partnership aims to expand the customer base of the Liquid Crystal Windows business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and to broaden the package of architectural solutions offered by Guardian Glass.**

Darmstadt, Germany, June 9 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, today announced a strategic partnership with Guardian Glass to commission sales of eyrise® dynamic liquid crystal windows. With this partnership, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany aims to expand the customer base of its Liquid Crystal Windows business by leveraging additional distribution channels.

“This partnership will allow us to offer a complete range of solutions for structural facades”, says Guus Boekhoudt, Vice President and General Manager of Guardian Glass for Europe, Russia and APAC. “eyrise® complements our extensive range of high-performance coated glass products with innovative features such as dynamic solar control and variety of colors, shapes and sizes. Combined with our expertise in commercial projects, this strategic addition will allow us to further enable tailor-made solutions for our customers.”

“The successful completion of the first eyrise® projects proves we have conquered the application of our liquid crystal technology in innovative architecture”, says Michael Heckmeier, Head of the Display Solutions business unit at the Performance Materials business sector of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. “Our goal now is to



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expand the reach of our eyrise® products to new markets and regions. With this strategic partnership with Guardian Glass, we will be able to leverage their know-how and network in the architecture industry as well as their expert salesforce to penetrate new market segments.”

Use of liquid crystal for dynamic glass in modern architecture

eyrise® offers unparalleled balance between aesthetics and functional needs of modern architecture with dynamic switchable glass.

eyrise® dynamic liquid crystal windows provides immediate shading comfort by cutting solar glare on-demand without compromising on natural daylight. The privacy window variant also offers an instant switch from transparent to translucent that provides confidentiality as required.

In 2020, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany has successfully completed the installation phase of two architectural lighthouse projects: one with crane manufacturer Kirow in Leipzig, Germany; and another project with consulting, controlling and planning company FC Group in Karlsruhe, Germany. Ramp-up of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany’s commercial manufacturing site in Veldhoven site was completed last year with the integration of a new lamination unit that is further optimizing overall production yield.

For more information about eyrise®, please visit www.eyrise.com

About Guardian Glass

Guardian Glass, a major business unit of Guardian Industries, is one of the world’s largest manufacturers of float, coated and fabricated glass products. At its 25 float plants around the globe, Guardian Glass produces high performance glass for use in exterior (both commercial and residential) and interior architectural applications, as well as transportation and technical products. Guardian glass can be found in homes, offices, cars and some of the world’s most iconic architectural landmarks. The Guardian Glass Science & Technology Center continuously works to create new glass products and solutions using the most advanced technology to help customers see what’s possible™. Visit guardianglass.com.

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About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

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Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, operates across healthcare, life science and performance materials. Around 57,000 employees work to make a positive difference to millions of people's lives every day by creating more joyful and sustainable ways to live. From advancing gene editing technologies and discovering unique ways to treat the most challenging diseases to enabling the intelligence of devices – the company is everywhere. In 2019, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 16.2 billion in 66 countries.

The company holds the global rights to the name and trademark "Merck" internationally. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the business sectors of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operate as EMD Serono in healthcare, MilliporeSigma in life science, and EMD Performance Materials. Since its founding 1668, scientific exploration and responsible entrepreneurship have been key to the company's technological and scientific advances. To this day, the founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed company.