

# Press Release

Stuttgart, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## **Agreement on Cooperation with Osaka Municipal Technical Research Institute OMTRI, Japan**

Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA (Director: Prof. Dr. Thomas Bauernhansl) concludes an agreement to start a cooperation in the field of printed electronics with the Osaka Municipal Technical Research Institute OMTRI (President: Dr. Masami Nakamoto, located in Osaka/Japan) on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Based on the agreement on cooperation between Fraunhofer IPA and the City of Osaka, signed on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, researchers from Fraunhofer IPA and OMTRI have been interacting and exchanging information regularly.

In order to expand and deepen this cooperation, Fraunhofer IPA concludes an agreement on cooperation with OMTRI. In addition to the existing activities like co-organizing a joint forum “International Nanotechnology Symposium” on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and participating into “Osaka Green Nano Forum” as invited speakers (November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014), a symposium of the “Osaka Green Nano Consortium” installed by the City of Osaka and OMTRI, the both parties promote the R&D activities especially in the field of printed electronics, create innovative technologies together with enterprises from both countries and aim the technology transfer to industry partners.

Printed electronics technologies are promising technologies with which enable to develop key devices for the ICT, aerospace, bio and medical as well as environment industry. As both Fraunhofer IPA and OMTRI possess world-leading applied technologies in material and process development in this field, it is expected to smooth the advanced research and development, to foster human resources and furthermore, to enhance the competitiveness of local companies through this new cooperation framework.

### <About OMTRI>

The Osaka Municipal Technical Research Institute (OMTRI) was founded by the Osaka City Government in 1916 with the principal objective of promotion of industry. From the beginning, the focus was on offering support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), drawing on OMTRI's own excellent R&D and on its technical expertise.

Once existing wholly within the structure of the Osaka city government, in 2008 OMTRI became more

independent. It now also derives support from a variety of businesses outside Osaka, as well as from ministries of the national government.

OMTRI has five research divisions, employing approximately 80 researchers, 85% of whom have Ph.Ds. The five Divisions are Organic Materials, Biomaterials and Commodity, Electronic Materials, Processing Technology and Environmental Technology.

The Nanotechnology Laboratories (including Printed-Electronics groups) lie within the Organic Materials and Electronic Materials Division, which, like the other divisions, are dedicated to sowing and nourishing the seeds necessary for developing the high-value products of tomorrow.

#### <About Fraunhofer IPA>

The Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA was founded in 1959 and incorporated in the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft in 1971. It is one of the largest single institutes within this research organization and employs around 490 scientists. It has an annual budget of approximately 60.3 million euros, of which 22.3 million euros derive from industrial projects.

The Fraunhofer IPA is made up of 14 individual departments engaged in the fields of Production Organization, Surface Engineering, Automation, and Process Technology. Our research and development work focuses on organizational and technological issues in the manufacturing environment of advanced industries, including Automotive, Mechanical Engineering, Electronics and Microsystems Engineering, Energy, and Medical and Biological Engineering. The R&D projects aim to enhance production processes and make products more cost-effective and environmentally friendly by identifying and exploiting the potential for automation and streamlining at our customers' companies. This helps to maintain jobs and to strengthen international competitiveness.