

date_here

Dear user_here

Welcome to our latest electronic edition of Epichem News. We invite you to forward this message to any interested parties at your workplace and encourage them to sign up to receive a copy directly in the future.

IN THIS ISSUE:

[Epichem Group receives investment from Intel Capital](#)

[Health Safety and Environmental Policy Recognition](#)

[Epichem Quality System Endorsement](#)

[New Solid Bubbler Provides Increased Precursor Usage](#)

[Collaborative Research Expands](#)

[Comic Relief Red Nose Day](#)

For all Epichem customers, please take the time to complete our 2005 survey for your chance to win an iPod. If you've not had your login details yet, [contact us](#) immediately.

Epichem Group receives investment from Intel Capital

Epichem is pleased to announce that Intel Capital has completed a venture capital investment in the company. The funds will enable Epichem to accelerate and expand R&D and manufacturing capabilities in the UK, USA and Taiwan across a wide range of new precursors demanded by the global semiconductor manufacturers. These highly tailored molecules are the specific chemical starting materials from which the computer and communication chips are made and significantly influence the properties and the speed of the material systems and so are key to achieving the desired end result.

Epichem has not previously raised funding in this manner, however, Barry Leese, Chief Executive of Epichem Group welcomed the investment and the recognition of the importance of new materials to provide enabling technology to this fast moving innovative sector. "Epichem's extensive in-house technical expertise, as well as its strong links to key academic centres in the UK and USA, continues to be a great advantage", said Leese. "This funding by Intel Capital will help to ensure that Epichem can solve some of the challenges presented by Moore's Law to meet the manufacturing requirements for future-generation devices."

"Over the past two decades, Moore's Law has driven the need for newer elements and materials in semiconductor manufacturing," said Keith Larson, Intel Capital Sector Director, Manufacturing and Digital Health. "Intel Capital is pleased to lead investments in companies, such as Epichem, to help accelerate development of novel materials, required by the semiconductor industry in the foreseeable future."

About Epichem

Epichem is a private limited company which was formed in 1983 to manufacture high purity chemicals for the semiconductor industry. In addition to supplying materials to the silicon semiconductor industry it has been at the forefront of researching and manufacturing a wide range of metalorganic chemicals used to produce compound semiconductor materials. These compounds are used to produce visible lasers (which are used in DVDs and telecommunications), high brightness LEDs (which are used in energy efficient lighting and displays), as well as high efficiency solar cells and chips for wireless communications. For more information on the Epichem Group visit <http://www.epichem.com>

About Intel Capital

Intel Capital, Intel's venture investment program, focuses on making minority equity investments in hardware, software and services companies in several market segments, including computing, networking, and wireless communications. Intel Capital has invested more than US\$4 billion in approximately 1,000 companies in more than 30 countries since 1991. Since its inception, about 160 portfolio companies have been acquired by other companies and another 150 have gone public on various exchanges around the world. Intel Capital employs investment managers in about 25 countries worldwide. Last year alone, Intel Capital invested more than US\$130 million in about 110 deals with approximately 40 percent of its investments made outside the United States. For more information, visit <http://www.intel.com/capital>.

Health Safety and Environmental Policy Recognition

Epichem's commitment to a safe working environment for all its employees has again been recognised by the British Safety Council with the award of its International Safety Award for a 9th consecutive year. The high standard of Epichem's procedures and their implementation has ensured safe operation of its expanding production facilities.



Coupled with the need for safety is a desire to minimise the environmental impact of all Epichem processes throughout a products life cycle. A new revision of the standard has been introduced and the transition to this latest ISO140001:2004 certification was applauded by the assessors. In the auditors closing report he commented that "Epichem were one of very few companies who had made this transition at the first attempt and one of few companies that had actually been recommended for certification to this new standard."

Epichem Quality System Endorsement



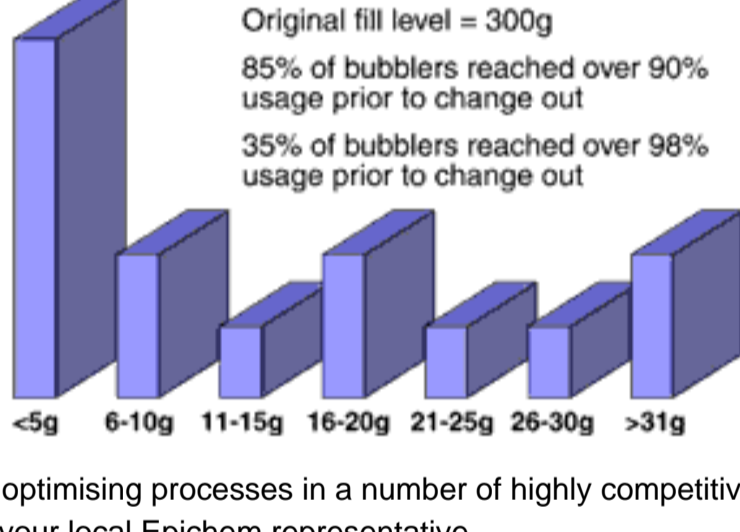
To maintain accreditation for its ISO 9001:2000 quality system Epichem must be regularly assessed by the certifying body and a recent BSI Quality Assessment Audit was performed at Allentown, US. In usual circumstances it can be expected to incur minor comments and be presented with a number of action items to continually improve the performance of the quality system, however, in this particular case Epichem had no non-conformances what so ever. A quote directly from the audit report states:

"There was good evidence of a high level of commitment to the ISO 9001 process as seen in the review of a sample of order entry files. All the evidence indicated a very well run process with a high

level of commitment to following the documented procedures. The system appeared highly effective."

New solid bubbler provides increased precursor usage

Efficient precursor usage is a key factor in large volume device manufacture and for solid sources significant residues can remain when using conventional bubblers. Numerous alternative designs have been studied and results from the latest version, in a production environment, have demonstrated much reduced weights of TMI in containers deemed empty. The majority of used containers were found to have less than 10% product and, on process optimisation, later bubblers had less than 2% remaining. This improvement in precursor usage is of key importance when optimising processes in a number of highly competitive markets and for further details please contact your local Epichem representative.



Collaborative Research Expands

Epichem's products are employed in a wide range of end applications and as such its active research department is constantly approached to work with partners on projects in diverse fields. To increase the volume of work possible an aggressive policy of applying for government support has been followed and Epichem is pleased to announce a number of projects have recently been accepted for support by both UK and European bodies. The topics covered include InN nano dots, high k dielectrics, direct laser writing, materials for phase change memories, bio compatible MEMS devices, increased temperature optoelectronics. Full details of each project will be posted on the Epichem website when the final details are available. These projects are complimentary to in-house projects and also specific work performed with individual customers to ensure Epichem remains at the forefront of precursor technology development.

If any group is interested in developing a collaboration with Epichem please e-mail research@epichem.co.uk

Comic Relief Red Nose Day

In the UK, Red Nose Day is a regular national fund raising event for Comic Relief and Epichem employees have taken extra efforts to support the charity appeal this year aimed at helping a wide range of under privileged communities both in the UK and Africa. Victims of natural and man made disasters in extreme need of short term and long term aid are targeted to help them survive today and build a better future (see <http://www.rednoseday.com/index.shtml>). The main event at Epichem was an auction of items donated by employees and the company ranging from a bottle of champagne to driving a Ferrari, a free car wash to a holiday abroad. Bidding was held over a conference telephone line to ensure all sites around the world could participate and fierce competition over a number of prime lots resulted in over £3000 being raised. With tax relief the total donation to Red Nose Day was £4000.



© Epichem 2005

Unsubscribe: If you would prefer not to receive further e-newsletters from Epichem, simply send an e-mail to unsubscribe@epichemnews.com with a subject of "unsubscribe" and we'll take you off the list as quickly as possible. Please ensure that the e-mail address you send your unsubscribe message from matches the address in the e-mail you have received from Epichem.

Address Change: If you would like to change your e-mail address on our database, please send an e-mail to change@epichemnews.com with a subject of "address change" and your name, the original e-mail address and the revised e-mail address in the body of the message.

Style Preference: If you would like to receive future e-mails in a plain text format instead of enriched html, please send an e-mail to textoption@epichemnews.com with "text option" in the subject line and your name and e-mail address in the body of the message.

Please do not use these above e-mail addresses for any other correspondence.

We apologise if this message has reached you in error. If this is the case, please follow the instructions above for unsubscribing and we will remove you from our database as soon as possible.