

April 17, 2025  
Idemitsu Kosan Co.,Ltd.

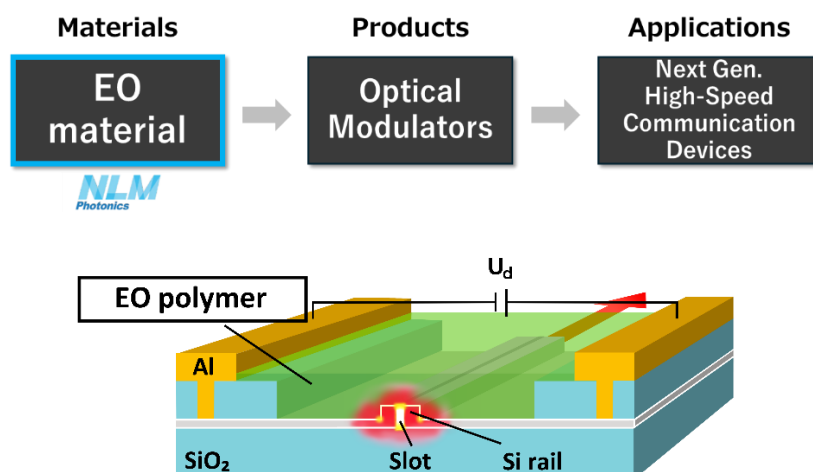
## Idemitsu Announces Strategic Investment in NLM Photonics

- Aims at new business creation in ICT solutions domain -

Idemitsu Kosan Co.,Ltd. (Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Representative Director, President: Noriaki Sakai) has made a strategic investment in NLM Photonics (NLM), a pioneer in the development of next-generation high-speed communication devices. The investment was made through Idemitsu's newly established corporate venture capital (CVC) unit and will enable Idemitsu Kosan to gain insights into market trends and technological innovations in the burgeoning field of high-speed communication devices.

With the advancement of communication infrastructure and the widespread adoption and diversification of digital services, data traffic is increasing rapidly. Moreover, the need to streamline the transmission and reception of vast amounts of data generated by AI, quantum computers, and video streaming has made the acceleration of communication a critical issue. In this context, optical communication, which utilizes high-speed optical signals, is expanding rapidly, necessitating further technological innovations in optical modulators that convert electrical signals into optical signals for high-speed communication.

One of the most promising materials for optical modulators, essential for next-generation high-speed communication devices, are "electro-optic polymers." These materials are expected to achieve both high speed and durability through technological advancements. NLM is pioneering the development of "electro-optic polymers", focusing on creating materials with high thermal stability to ensure both high speed and durability.



Concept of Electro-Optic (EO) Polymer

Idemitsu has extensive experience in the research and development of organic light-emitting materials and high-performance resins and possesses expertise in the design and computational science of low-molecular organic light-emitting materials, as well as polymer design and polymerization technology. This aligns well with the development of electro-optic polymers. Through our investment in NLM, we aim to enhance our understanding of market trends and technological innovations in the next-generation high-speed communication device sector and pursue business opportunities in this rapidly growing field. By collaborating with startup companies through Idemitsu CVC, we will leverage innovative technologies and ideas to create new value and address social challenges, thereby fostering new businesses in the Information and Communication Technology solutions domain as outlined in our medium-term management plan.

**Comment from Yoshitaka Onuma, Executive Officer:**

"We have high expectations for the "high-speed communication device" sector, especially in terms of addressing social challenges and leveraging our company's expertise and technological capabilities. We will utilize our CVC unit to integrate knowledge from both inside and outside the company, driving the transformation of our existing businesses and the creation of new ventures, and reinforcing our sustainable growth strategy. As a company dedicated to supporting lives through energy and materials, we will steadily advance towards this mission. We believe this investment will contribute to NLM's growth and create new business opportunities for our company in this field."

**About NLM Photonics:**

Location: 4000 Mason Road, Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98195, USA  
Established: 2018  
Business: Development and manufacturing of electro-optic polymers  
CEO: Brad Booth  
Website: <https://www.nlmphotonics.com>

**References:**

Press Release: Partnership with Emerald to Promote CVC (August 9, 2024)  
[https://www.idemitsu.com/jp/news/2024/240809\\_2\\_en.pdf](https://www.idemitsu.com/jp/news/2024/240809_2_en.pdf)

About Idemitsu CVC:  
<https://www.idemitsu.com/en/company/rd/cvc/index.html>

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