∞ iTec

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Japan's Infinite Technologies To Publish Global LCD/OELD Components Report

TOKYO, JAPAN — JANUARY 18, 2002 — The global market for LCD components is forecast to exhibit average annual growth of 10% from 2001 through to 2006, reaching a value of ¥1,124 billion ($8.45 billion) by then. This is one of the findings of a comprehensive update in the form of **Global LCD/OELD Components Report 2002**, to be released by Japan's Infinite Technologies, Inc. (iTec) in April of this year. The latest report also predicts that the components market will account for 24% of the overall LCD module market by 2006, compared with 30% in 2001, indicating component suppliers will come under increasing pressure to lower prices.

A special feature of iTec's latest report is the focus on components for organic EL displays. iTec forecasts that this market will be valued at ¥225 billion ($1.7 billion) by 2006. iTec principal George Ohgaki says there is a high probablity that driver ICs will become a bottleneck in OELD production. The driver IC market will be valued at an estimated ¥20 billion ($150 million) in 2006.

iTec believes that plastic substrates, chrome targets, rubbing cloths, sealants, and liquid crystal materials will be relatively immune to drastic price falls. These markets are characterized by the dominance of one or at most several players, the non-existence of substitute materials, and no in-house production by LCD manufacturers.

On the other hand, prices for color filters, orientation coatings, backlights, and light guide panels will tend to fall due to the lack of dominant players, a competitive market, and in-house manufacture at LCD manufacturers.

Innovative features of **Global LCD/OELD Components Report 2002** include:

(1) The latest forecasts of TFT supply/demand trends and component supply trends that could prove to be bottlenecks for future market growth.

(2) Analysis of market structures and dominant players for various display components.

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(3) The challenges that LCD makers will face in implementing their production plans and pricing strategies based on component supply/demand scenarios.

4) Competitive analysis of component suppliers, including the emergence of Taiwanese component suppliers.

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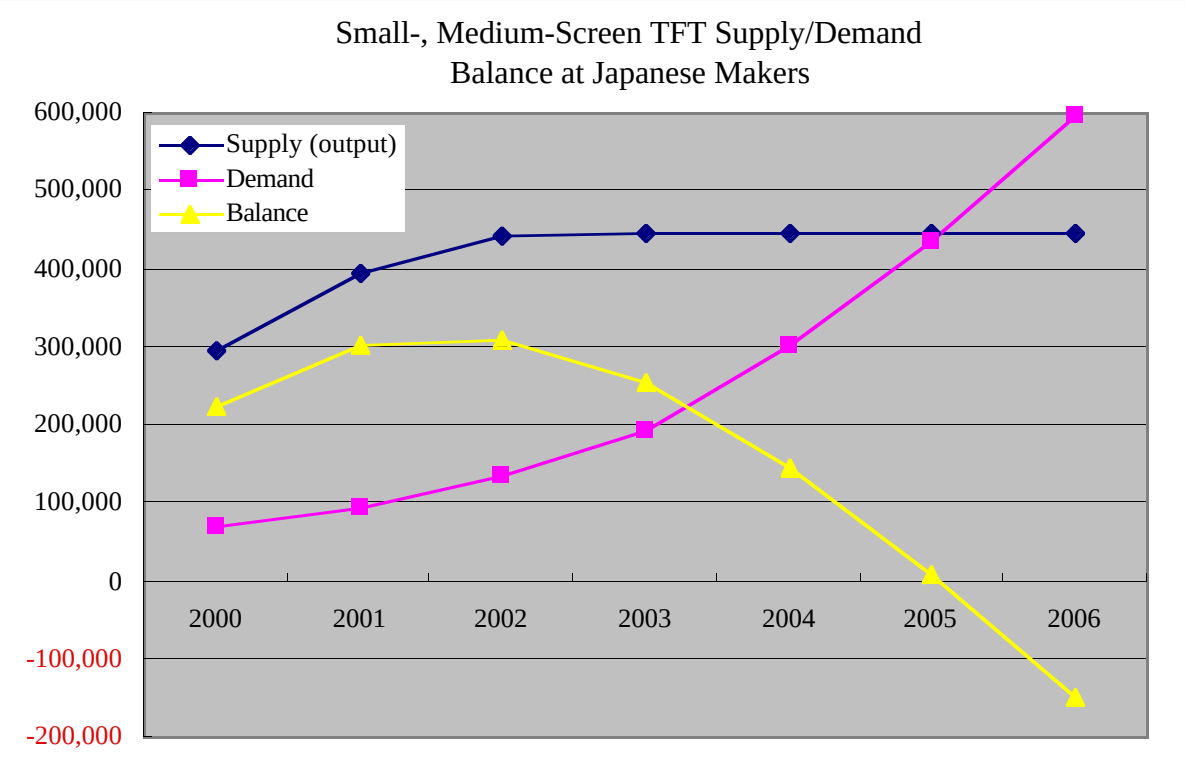
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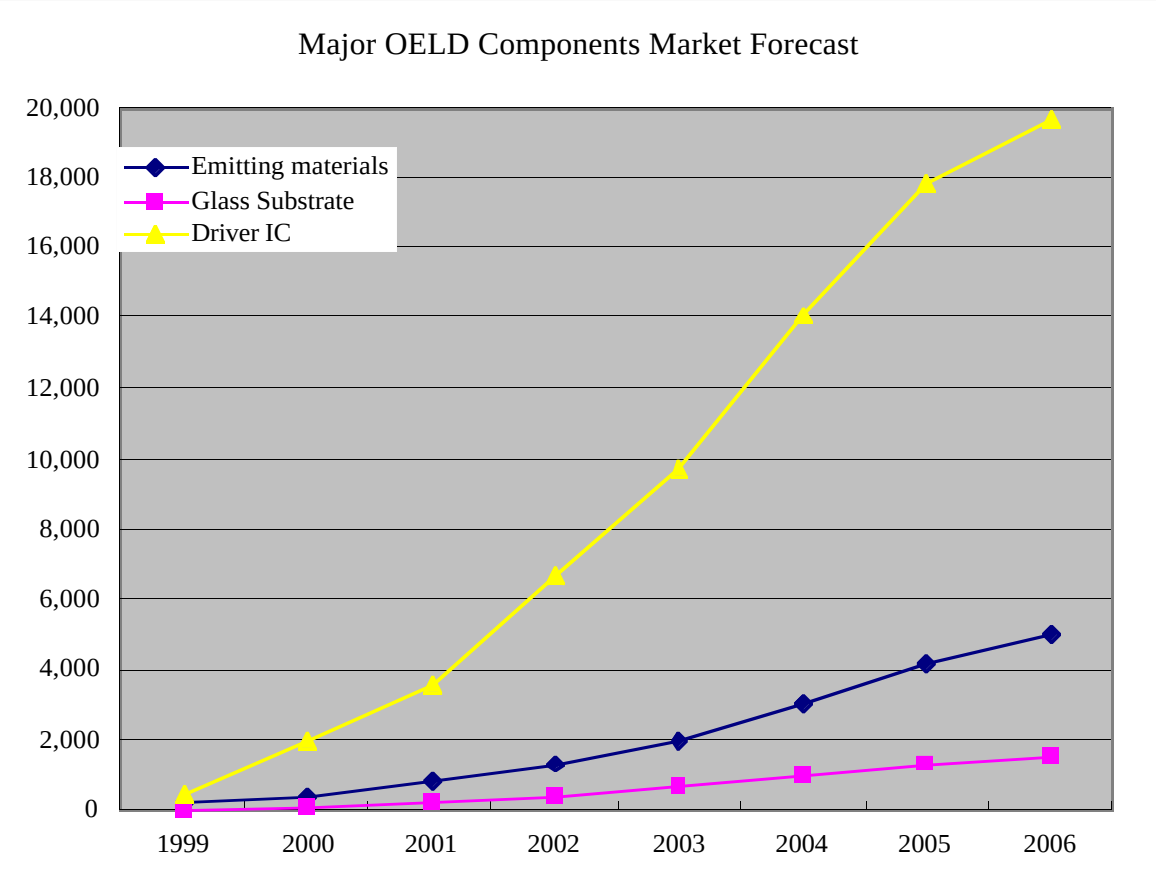
Infinite Technologies, Inc. (iTec) was established in April 1999 by George Ohgaki, previously a consultant at Yano Research Institute. The company's staff of six specialize in analysis of three key areas: information technology; electronics; and new materials.

Major projects to date include consultation on marketing and R&D strategies at major Korean electronic component manufacturers, a study on merger & acquisition targets for European companies in the Japanese automotive component manufacturer sector, a survey on computer peripherals technology, an analysis of management at major U.S. semiconductor manufacturers, and a report on B-to-B and B-to-C E-commerce in Japan.

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Sample data (Source: Infinite Technologies, 2002)





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