A Shining Future in Sight for LEDs in Cars

Contributed by IMS Research
Wednesday, 20 April 2005

If the progress of recent years on high-brightness LED costs and technical performance continues, there is every prospect of the global market for LEDs in external vehicle lights approaching $400 million per year by 2010. This is a growth of a factor of ten in a mere eight years, according to a recently published report by IMS Research. If the price is right and the light is bright, then the LEDâ€™s inherent advantages of long life, fast switch-on and low power consumption will make it preferable to the incandescent lamp that has dominated the automotive market for so long.

Today, the dominant application for external LED lights in cars is in the centre high-mounted stop light, particularly in Europe. In addition, this year will also see models with LED combination rear lights (stop, tail, turning and reverse lights), or LED daytime running lights in volume production.

â€œCombine the dramatic increase of LED use in external vehicle lights with the internal applications, such as dashboard/console illumination and status indicators, and the global automotive market for LEDs could reach $1 billion by the end of the decade.â€• said Nicola Dadswell, market research analyst with IMS Research. However, because of the dramatic increase in the use of LEDs in portable consumer applications, such as mobile phones, the automotive market will account for only one sixth of the total year 2010 LED market, no higher a fraction than today.