

Announcement of the launch of equipment that can deal with the world's largest glass substrates for the seventh-generation TFT LCD panels

Kyoto, Japan, February 24, 2004 — Dainippon Screen Mfg. Co., Ltd., (Headquarters: Kyoto; Japan / President: Akira Ishida) has developed SK-1800G coater/developer that can deal with the world's largest* glass substrates 1,870 x 2,200 mm for the TFT LCD panels. The shipment will be started from summer in 2004.

Recently, the demand for large size LCD televisions has expanded greatly around Asia, including Japan, improving growth in the 30-inch-class LCD panel market. Judging from the forecast that the shipment amount of LCD televisions will expand up to approximately 12 million by 2005 in comparison to 1.5 million in 2002, in addition to the current customers' preference for the larger size televisions, it is predicted that the panels will grow in size to 40- and 50-inch-class panels, henceforth. In the liquid crystal industry, in regard to the enlargement of the size of LCD panels, efforts to enlarge the glass substrates are being made to improve production efficiency. It is believed that LCD panel manufacturers will continue upgrading their production facilities with an eye on the production of the seventh generation compatible glass substrates.

The SK-1800G that we put on the market this time is one that takes an early lead in the LCD market and this trend. With the advanced deployment of the technology that has been developed for the SK-1500G sixth-generation compatible equipment, that is to be marketed from the spring of 2004, the SK-1800G enables photoresist coating and development to the world's largest* glass substrates of up to 1870 x 2,200 mm. This is called the seventh generation substrate for the TFT LCD. As a result, the efficiency in producing 37-inch or larger LCD panels will increase. This is because the processing of super size glass substrates becomes possible. Therefore, it is now possible to output eight 37-inch wide panels or six 47-inch wide panels per glass substrate.

* As of February 24, 2004

<Shipment start schedule>

From summer in 2004

<Targeted annual sales units>

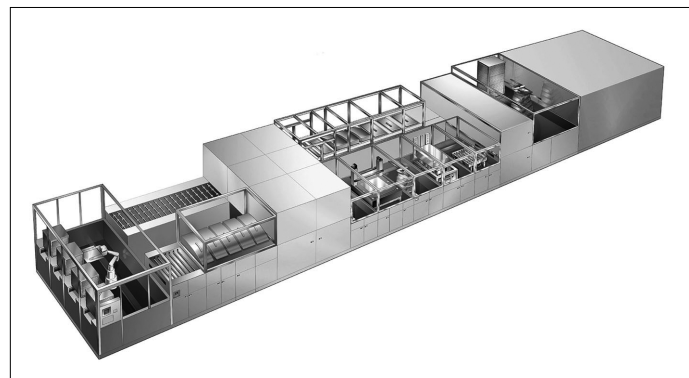
15 to 20 units

<Suggested domestic retail price>

1.26 billion yen

(Price of main unit: 1.2 billion yen plus consumption tax of 60 million yen)

The price differs according to the specification.



SK-1800G

Please download the photo from
<http://www.screen.co.jp/press/nr-photo/indexE.html>