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# PRESS RELEASE

## **Kent Displays Awarded Ohio Third Frontier Funding to Develop Next Generation of Electronic Skin Technology**

**Kent, OH, May 7, 2009:** - Kent Displays announced today a \$4.9 Million award from the Ohio Third Frontier Commission's Research Commercialization Program. The award will be used to develop the company's next generation of electronic skins for portable electronic devices such as cell phones and laptop computers. The commercialization program will be managed and executed at the company's headquarters in Kent over the next three years.

Kent Displays' program collaborators include plastic substrate producer DuPont Teijin Films and electronic chip designer Solomon Systech Ltd., as well as two leading research institutions in liquid crystal technology and polymer science: Kent State University and the University of Akron, respectively.

The Third Frontier award will be used to further develop Kent Displays' Reflex™ LCD electronic skins, an ultra thin, plastic display that can be cut to a custom shape and conformed to another surface. The display is reflective and requires no power from the host device to retain an image. The company's first generation electronic skins display eight different colors, changeable at the touch of a button to match a user's mood, clothing or preference. The user can also select a menu option to change the skin color based on device status (e.g., new voice mail, meeting reminder). These capabilities bring a new level of personalization and differentiation to a wide range of products.

Support from Ohio Third Frontier will enable numerous Reflex electronic skin advancements to enhance commercial viability: performance (optical, environmental, durability), size, conformability (complex shapes) and electronics (conductivity, miniaturization). Funding will also be used to refine and optimize the roll-to-roll production processes for manufacturing Reflex electronic skins.

Kent Displays' CEO Dr. Albert Green stated, "Kent Displays is extremely excited to receive Ohio Third Frontier funding to develop the next generation of Reflex electronic skins. Ohio Third Frontier is

essential to the future of the State of Ohio. It is an important catalyst for the state's emerging high technology sector and creating and retaining jobs within it. This sector is redefining the state's economic base beyond traditional manufacturing and services to meet the needs of a rapidly-advancing, technology-based society. Support through Ohio Third Frontier is a key enabler of commercializing products like our Reflex electronic skins that meet these needs. We are confident that with this support Kent Displays and the state have a secure future."

Humphrey Leung, CEO of Solomon Systech, added that "We are proud to collaborate with Kent Displays on this very important commercialization project. Significant technology advancements often require a synergistic relationship between multiple participants, public and private. Ohio Third Frontier facilitates this type of environment. The commercialization programs it funds not only help to make new technology a reality, they yield broad, far-reaching effects that benefit many. From business growth and job creation throughout the supply chain, to products that improve the way we live, it is true example of a win-win situation."

### **About Kent Displays**

Founded in 1993, Kent Displays, Inc. is a world leader in the research, development and manufacture of Reflex™ liquid crystal displays for unique, sustainable applications. Our revolutionary Reflex LCDs retain an image without power and offer superior optical characteristics including sunlight-readability and wide viewing angles. In October 2008, Kent Displays installed a new roll-to-roll production line in Kent, Ohio to mass produce Reflex LCDs from rolls of plastic. The line is the first of its kind in the world and produces no waste water/chemicals and less solvent emissions than sheet-based processes. The flexibility, durability and exceptional thinness of our plastic displays, combined with no power image retention and superior optical characteristics, result in a versatile, environmentally-friendly alternative to traditional paper and backlit LCDs – with nearly endless applications!

Join Kent Displays' commitment to sustainability through technology innovation. Think Green. Be Green. *Push Green™*. For more information about Kent Displays, go to [www.kentdisplays.com](http://www.kentdisplays.com) or contact us at [info@kentdisplays.com](mailto:info@kentdisplays.com).

### **About Ohio Third Frontier**

Ohio Third Frontier, administered by the Ohio Department of Development, is committed to expanding Ohio's technological strengths and promoting commercialization that leads to economic prosperity throughout Ohio. Designed to build world-class research programs, nurture early stage companies, and foster the technology development that makes existing industries more productive, Ohio Third Frontier creates opportunity through innovation.

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