

September 3, 2008

SUMIDA CORPORATION

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Xenon Igniter (HID) of VOGT electronic Components GmbH

VOGT electronic Components GmbH (hereafter: VOGT), a German group company of SUMIDA CORPORATION (CEO: Shigeyuki Yawata), delivered the 10 millionth D1 Xenon-igniter (HID) to Philips Automotive Lighting (hereafter: Philips) – a worldwide leading manufacturer of Xenon-lamps.



Photo above: trophy to commemorate the 10 millionth Xenon Igniter delivered.

("XenStart" is a product name of Philips.)

The trophy shows a D3 version)

The compact Xenon Igniter Module of VOGT generates a pulse voltage of minimum 23,000V, and is a key component of the Xenon Light System of Philips, which has been developed in close cooperation between Philips and VOGT.

VOGT is the world leading producer of Xenon Igniter for the D1 and D3 market and it integrates major technologies for the production of Xenon Igniter Modules, in particular: ferrite production, plastic molding and overmolding, winding, metal part insertion, connection technologies (e.g. laser and arc welding), lead frame assembly, silicon vacuum potting, module assembly etc. (EU patent obtained). VOGT is constantly working on improvements, and is therefore highly valued as a reliable and innovative partner by its clients.

1. About Xenon lamps (HID)

Conventional lamps generate light by heating of a coiled filament, whereas, Xenon lamps generate light through an arc (HID, high intensity discharge) between two electrodes in a bulb which is filled with Xenon gas. In recent years it has become widely used in car headlights. Xenon lamps cannot be started up directly by the low-voltage of a car battery (~12V), as they require tens of thousands volts. The Xenon Igniter generates the required high-tension pulse voltage to initiate the lighting-up. The bulb of D1 and D3 versions are integrated with the igniter, whereas D2 and D4 are removable types. (The bulbs of D3 and D4 types are also lead-free.)

2. Main features of Xenon-lamps (HID)

A. Excellent Lightning of the Field of View

Xenon-lamps are able to light long distances through high-intensity and directional-lighting. This feature contributes to a better field of view and improves safety at night. A study by TÜV Rheinland(*) revealed that the number of accidents at night could be significantly reduced through Xenon-lamps. TÜV Rheinland estimated that the number of fatalities would be reduced by 18%, if all cars were equipped with Xenon light.

(*)This study was published on 25 September 2007. TÜV Rheinland is an international independent organization who operates product safety examinations and certifications as well as management system certifications.

B. Less Energy Consumption

Xenon-lamps (35W) provide better energy-saving and require less power compared to halogen lamps (50W), as they generate light through an arc and not through a coiled filament. TÜV Rheinland estimated in the above study, that the CO₂ emission would be reduced by 190,000 tons.

C. Longer Life

Compared to halogen lamps, Xenon-lamps last longer as no coiled filaments are used and burn outs caused by inrush currents, vibrations and wastage do not occur.

3. Market trend of Xenon Lamp (HID)

The usage of Xenon-lamps is expected to expand further in the next few years. Currently, mainly mid to high class cars are equipped with Xenon headlights. However, further growth in market scale is expected in relation to the development of smaller and cheaper igniter modules, which would smooth the way to the compact cars market. In the near future a broad equipping of Xenon Lamps in motorbikes may increase business chances further.

4. Future approach by Sumida Group

D2 and D4 types are currently the mainstream versions in Japan. We intend to utilize the advanced technology of VOGT to provide high-quality products also in Japan and in other Asian market.

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