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**NEWS RELEASE** 

**Increase in Production Capacity of Cerium Oxide Based Abrasive** 

- To increase monthly production capacity by 30% to 240 tons in Miike Rare Metal Plant -

Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co., Ltd. (President: Keiji Nishida; "Mitsui Kinzoku," hereinafter) is pleased to announce that it has decided to increase monthly production of its cerium oxide based abrasive MIREK<sup>TM</sup> to 240 tons.

Mitsui Kinzoku's cerium oxide based abrasive MIREK<sup>TM</sup> has been widely recognized in the market as ideal for a range of applications, from primary polishing to finishing of glass substrates, lenses and others used in electronic components and optics-related high-end segments.

MIREK<sup>TM</sup> is one of the main products of Engineered Powders Div. Miike Rare Metal Plant (Omuta-shi, Fukuoka), holding the top share in the high-end cerium oxide based abrasive market. To meet the demand for high-definition applications, Mitsui Kinzoku has added the new HL Series to its product lineup.

The HL Series boasts a robust reputation in the market as a high performance abrasive with a wide range of applications, including liquid-crystal glass substrates, hard disk glass substrates, photomasks, and optical glasses and lenses. In recent years, the demand volume has grown markedly due to the spread of large LCD TVs. To meet this strong demand, Mitsui Kinzoku will install a new product line at its Miike Rare Metal Plant to increase the monthly production capacity from 180 to 240 tons. The operation will start from July 2018.

Mitsui Kinzoku is committed to offer stable quality and ensure adequate supply to its customers under the slogan "Material Intelligence."

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Photo: MIREK<sup>TM</sup>
(Left) E Series, (Right) HL Series