

GIST faculty startup LEECELL Co., Ltd. secures 4.5 billion won Series A investment... Green light for next-generation solar cell commercialization

- Secures growth funding in recognition of next-generation solar cell film technology based on GIST's source technology... Participating entities include Gwangju United Holdings, Korea Development Bank, and POSCO Technology Investment

- Commercialization gains momentum following selection for the Ministry of Science and ICT's 'Unicorn Project'... Full-scale entry into low-light, building, mobility, and agricultural solar cell markets



▲ Group photo of LEECELL Co., Ltd. employees celebrating Series A investment. LEECELL employees are taking a commemorative photo to celebrate securing a Series A investment totaling 4.5 billion KRW. (Fifth from the left in the front row) CEO Kwanghee Lee

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced that LEECELL Co., Ltd. (CEO Kwanghee Lee, Visiting Professor of Materials Science and Engineering), a faculty startup specializing in the manufacture of next-generation solar cell films, has successfully secured a Series A* investment totaling 4.5 billion KRW.

This investment round is a recognition of the value of LEECELL's next-generation solar cell technology and is expected to serve as an important stepping stone for connecting research results to actual products and markets.

- Series A: A growth-stage investment raised by companies that have moved beyond the initial startup phase and verified the marketability of their products and technologies, in order to expand their business and enter the market.

This Series A investment, which completed its final closing on the 5th, saw broad participation from university technology holding companies such as ▲ Gwangju United Technology Holdings and ▲ Chonnam National University Technology Holdings, policy financial institutions such as the ▲ Korea Technology Guarantee Fund and ▲ Korea Development Bank, and private investors such as ▲ Ubiquitous Investment, ▲ Hyundai Investment Partners, and ▲ POSCO Technology Investment.

In addition, LEECELL Co., Ltd. was recently selected for the Ministry of Science and ICT's "Unicorn Project," a support program for the commercialization of strategic technology research results, securing a total of 1.8 billion won in government funding. With the addition of this Series A investment, the company is expected to gain further momentum in technology commercialization and the establishment of a production system.

Based on the original solar cell technology accumulated by GIST researchers, LEECELL possesses technology for "next-generation solar cell films" that are lightweight, flexible, and transparent.

Unlike conventional solar cells, which are rigid and heavy, this film features high flexibility that allows it to be attached to curved surfaces and is ultra-lightweight. Furthermore, it can generate electricity even in low-light environments comparable to indoor lighting.

Most importantly, the ability to apply a "roll-to-roll" process, which continuously processes film-type materials, makes it advantageous for mass production and securing price competitiveness.

Based on these technological strengths, LEECELL plans to actively pursue the commercialization and market expansion of its next-generation solar cell films. In particular, the company plans to expand its market focusing on low-light photovoltaics, building-integrated photovoltaics, mobility-integrated photovoltaics, and agricultural-type solar cells.

Next-generation solar cell films can generate power even in low-light environments, such as indoor lighting or cloudy weather, making them suitable for use as power technology for AI (artificial intelligence) and IoT (internet of things) sensors and

wearable devices. Additionally, building-integrated photovoltaics applied to building exteriors and windows can contribute to the realization of energy-independent buildings.

Furthermore, mobility-integrated photovoltaics applied to various modes of transportation, such as vehicles, drones, and ships, enable independent power generation. Finally, agricultural-type solar cells utilized in agricultural facilities like greenhouses and smart farms are expected to simultaneously achieve agricultural productivity and renewable energy generation.

To expand the market in these core business areas, LEECELL Co., Ltd. plans to use this investment to advance its mass production processes and expand production capacity, while also securing specialized personnel to accelerate commercialization.

CEO Kwanghee Lee stated, "This investment attraction is the result of recognition for the business performance and growth potential of Resell's next-generation solar cell technology," adding, "We will establish a mass production system early and create new growth opportunities in the eco-friendly energy market."