

02/12/2003 Denpa Shinbun

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**Hitachi Group**

**RoHS directive to ban 6 chemical substances for EU, by end of 2004.**

### ***Change to Lead-Free Solder***

Hitachi Group decided to ban 6 chemical substances contained in about 70 products found in the legislation of prohibited substances (RoHS directive) which came into effect by a consortium of 15 nations in the EU (European Union) on the specific toxic substances contained in electronics equipments by end of 2004. The change to lead-free solder will be implemented for all domestic productions by end of this year and will be carried out all over the world by end of 2004. Hitachi will invest about 800 million yen for lead free implementation in their domestic market.

As for RoHS products for EU, the research of 70% of components had already been carried out. This will be completed by the end of this year. As for the other 30% of components, evaluation for a substitute technology, were mostly completed and already use in all the products.

About the measures against lead-free, solder used for joining; in order to reduce the melting temperature of tin-silver-copper solder; solder containing 7% indium is being used. The reliability and performance of the solder had already been checked and has already started to use from this month. As for the supply of components involved in such environmental preservation, the green procurement system will be implemented through the website.

In addition, Hitachi promotes the IMS international project EFSOT by the industries study and government cooperation for the purpose of the global implementation of lead-free solder joint technology. The international cooperation organization between Japan, Europe and Korea was established in February this year.