

## Press Information

### **Gekko Technology**

**24 August 2011**

#### **MIDVEN INVESTS IN FILM LIGHTING COMPANY**

West Midlands' Gekko Technology, which has developed a new and innovative range of LED lighting for the international film and television industry, has received backing from Midven's Exceed – Midlands Advantage Fund.

The Kenilworth, Warwickshire lighting company's film credits already include Casino Royale, Quantum of Solace, Mamma Mia, Golden Compass, Star Trek and on-location programmes such as Sky's Ryder Cup coverage and BBC Waking the Dead.

The £18m Exceed Fund has invested £510,000 in the company as additional working capital to support its growth as it continues to build the business, increase sales and undertake further research and development.

The company, which exports some 60% of its products outside the UK, already includes BBC, ITN, Sky Television, Channel 4, Channel 5, Associated Press and NBC (USA) amongst its clients. Many industry experts believe that LED film and television lighting, as pioneered by Gekko, is most likely to replace traditional lighting. Legislation worldwide is set to outlaw tungsten lighting (currently the most widely used technology in the film and broadcast sector) within the next ten years.

Steven Greenall, Midven's investment manager for Exceed, said that in its seven years life, Gekko had emerged as a market leader bringing cutting edge technology into the film and broadcast sector.

"The company has delivered compound sales growth since it was established in 2004 and now has the largest order book in its history. Its products are green and contribute to tangible Co2 savings – as well as being designed specifically to meet the rigorous requirements of both studio and on-location lighting," said Mr Greenall.

Gekko managing director David Amphlett, who established the business when he came up with an idea for a lightweight, dimmable ring light system for the film and TV market, said that legislation and environmental awareness were combining to ensure that LED technology is increasingly being specified for film and television. Production houses and television companies are already insisting on LED as the core light source.

"Our focus has been on the development of high quality, reliable and feature-rich products backed by intellectual property rights with and introducing our products to some of the leading television and film production studios.

"Our order book has never been larger and we are forecasting significant growth in turnover as Gekko is increasingly recognised as - to quote one of our industry journals - the 'rising star in the design and manufacture of innovative LED lighting'," said Mr Amphlett.

The company has also joined forces with US-based PRG to establish a North American dealer network.

## **ENDS**

### **About Midven Limited/Exceed**

Midven Limited is a privately owned commercial fund manager with a successful track record of investing in small and medium-sized enterprises in the Midlands. Midven manages five funds representing £61m under management. The funds have invested in a wide variety of sectors, including software, biotechnology, healthcare, engineering, manufacturing and distribution.

The £18.4m Exceed Fund was established in December 2009 to invest in high growth businesses in the West Midlands. It became operational in March 2010 when LDC became an investor in the Fund. The Exceed Fund can invest up to £750,000 in a range of sectors to support expansion and development. Managed By Midven, its investors include Lloyds Development Capital, Advantage West Midlands and the European Regional Development Fund.

### **About Gekko Technology**

Gekko Technology produces versatile, robust and efficient white and colour-tunable LED-based luminaries for film, television, photographic lighting. Intelligent design, combined with high-quality components, ensures accurate, consistent and precisely-controllable colour-temperature. Film Credits include Casino Royale, Quantum of Solace, Mamma Mia, Golden Compass, Star Trek, Desperate Housewives and Date Night. Studio lighting includes the Jeff Randall live show on Sky News and Sky's Ryder Cup coverage. The company employs 12 staff at its offices at Dalehouse Lane, Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

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