



# Enhanced Design Freedom and Superior Performance - Dow Optical Silicones

**DOWSIL**<sup>™</sup>

Presented by Dr. Joel McDonald • Product Development Manager  
Contributors include François De Buyl, Jake Steinbrecher, Brad Tuft, Konstantin Sobolev  
Dow Performance Silicones - Lighting  
Intelligent Automotive Lighting 2018, February 6, 2018



# Outline



## What are Silicones?

- Compare to Different Optical Materials

## Quick Look

- Dow Product Portfolio for Transportation Lighting

## Case Studies

- Enabling Performance & Design

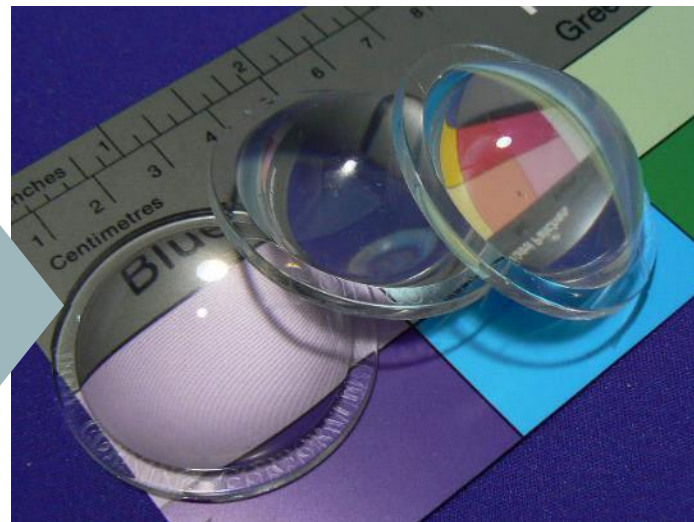


# Silicones

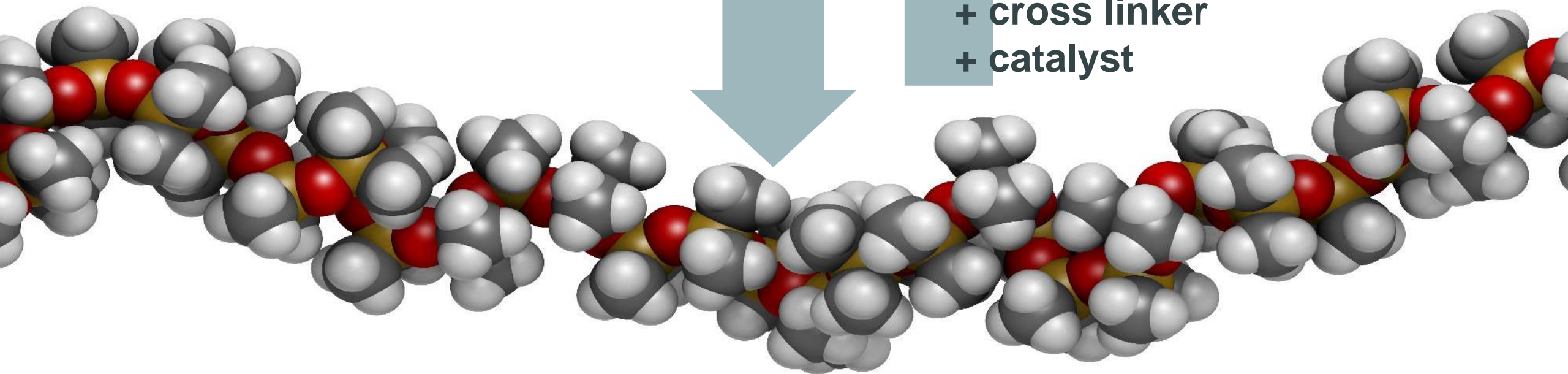
**Si**



+ oxygen  
+ methyl



+ cross linker  
+ catalyst



**Polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS)**

# Silicones Versus Glass and Plastic

	Dow Moldable Optical Silicone	Glass	PC	PMMA
<b>Initial Physical Form (@ 25°C)</b>	Liquid	Solid	Solid	Solid
<b>Processing Temperature (°C)</b>	15 - 25	1500	280-320	250
<b>Molding Temperature (°C)</b>	125 - 180	600 (tin bath)	90 - 120	60 - 80
<b>Refractive Index (n @ 633nm)</b>	1.42	1.52	1.58	1.49
<b>Thermo-Optical Coefficient (dn/dT)</b>	-3.2×10 <sup>-4</sup>	ca. 2×10 <sup>-6</sup>	-1.07×10 <sup>-4</sup>	-1.1×10 <sup>-4</sup>
<b>Light Transmission (%)</b>	94	91	89	93
<b>Abbe number</b>	ca. 50		ca. 30	ca. 57
<b>Max Service T (°C)</b>	150	>200	120	90
<b>Glass Transition Temperature, Tg (°C)</b>	ca. -104	ca. +600	ca. +145	ca. +120
<b>Specific Gravity (g/cm<sup>3</sup>)</b>	1.02 – 1.08	2.5	1.2	1.2
<b>CTE (ppm/°C)</b>	250-325	10	65	72

**What unique capabilities do these properties enable?**





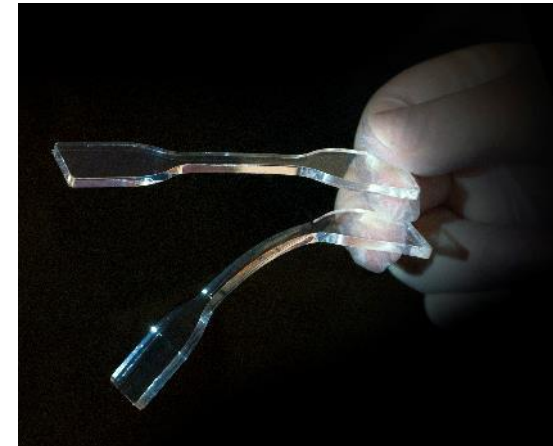
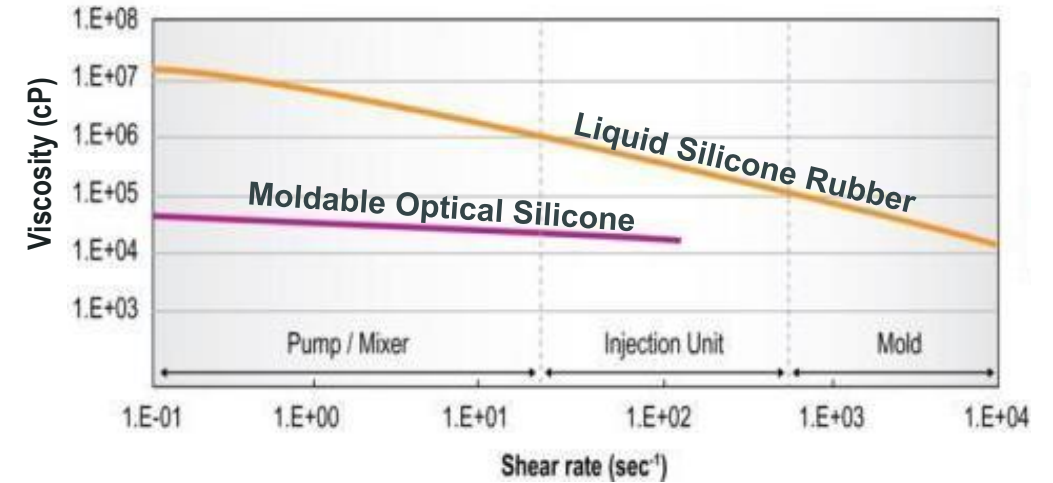
# Molding and Mechanical Properties

## Efficient Injection Molding

- Ease of fabrication by liquid injection molding
- No secondary polishing of molded optics required

## Soft and Pliable, OR Firm and Tough

- Impact and scratch resistant when hit or dropped
- Minimal compression set → high IP ratings luminaires



# Optical Properties and Reliability

## Excellent Optical Clarity

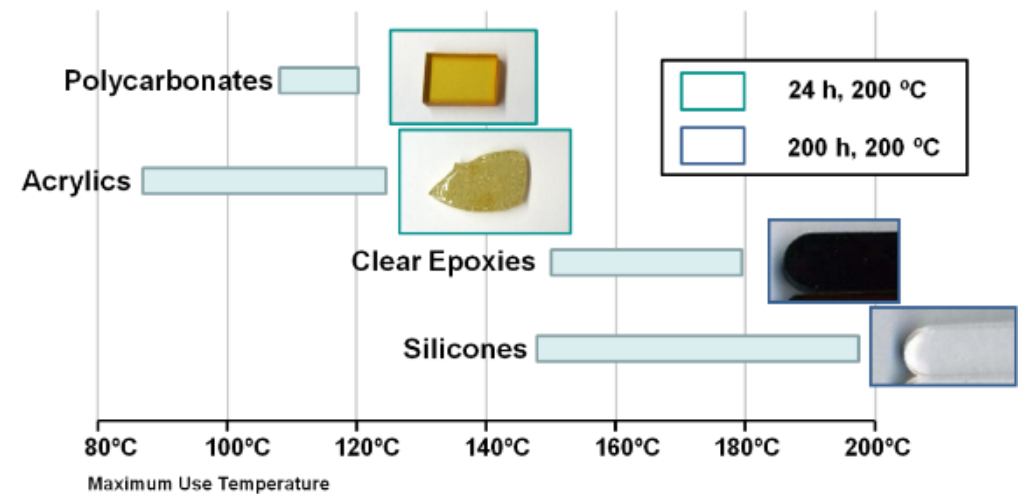
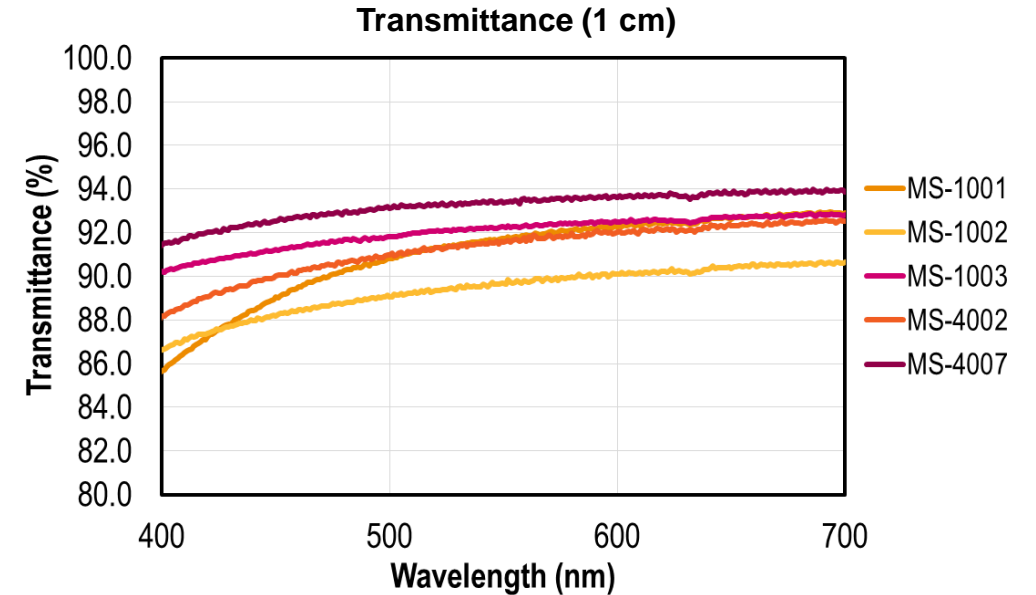
- Select optical grade to meet application requirements

## Also, High Optical Reflectivity

- Diffuse and specular reflectivity

## Reliable in Extreme Conditions

- Robust to thermal and hydrothermal aging



# Performance and Design Impact



- Encapsulation of LEDs for protection
- Moldable Optical silicones for design freedom
- Thin and flexible light guide for new illumination concepts

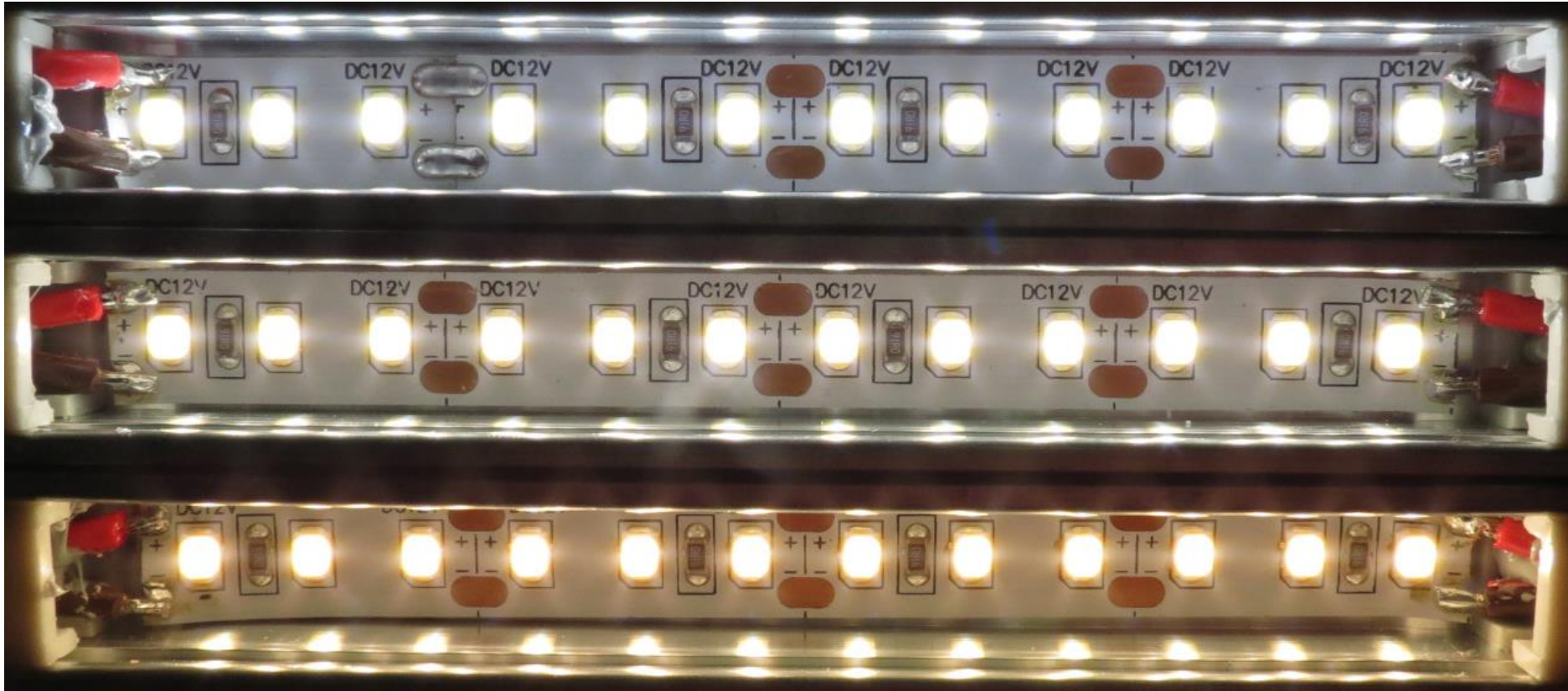


# Protective Materials Over LEDs and Associated Optical Effects





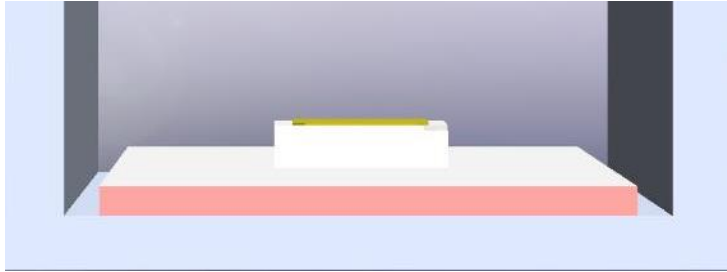
# Protection and Performance



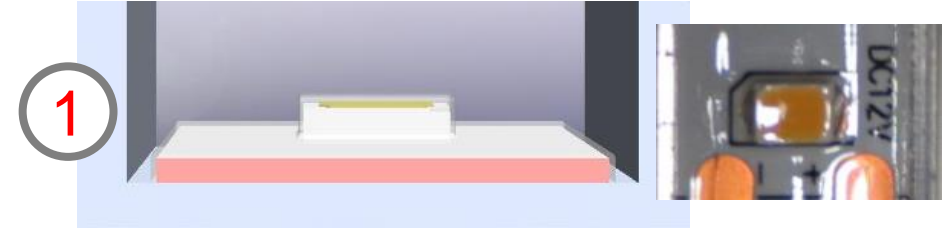
Can we protect LEDs and preserve optical performance?

# Protection Options

4000K Test Part, No Material  
(Optical Simulation)



4000K Test Part with **DOWSIL™ 1-2577**  
Low VOC Conformal Coating



4000K Test Part with **DOWSIL™ EI-1184**  
Optical Encapsulant



4000K Test Part with **DOWSIL™ MS-1002**  
Moldable Optical Silicone



## Conformal Coating: Silicone, Acrylic, Urethane

- Thin layer provides little impact on light quality

## Encapsulant: Silicone, Acrylic, Urethane

- Impact protection in challenging environments

## Molded Lens: Silicone, PC, PMMA

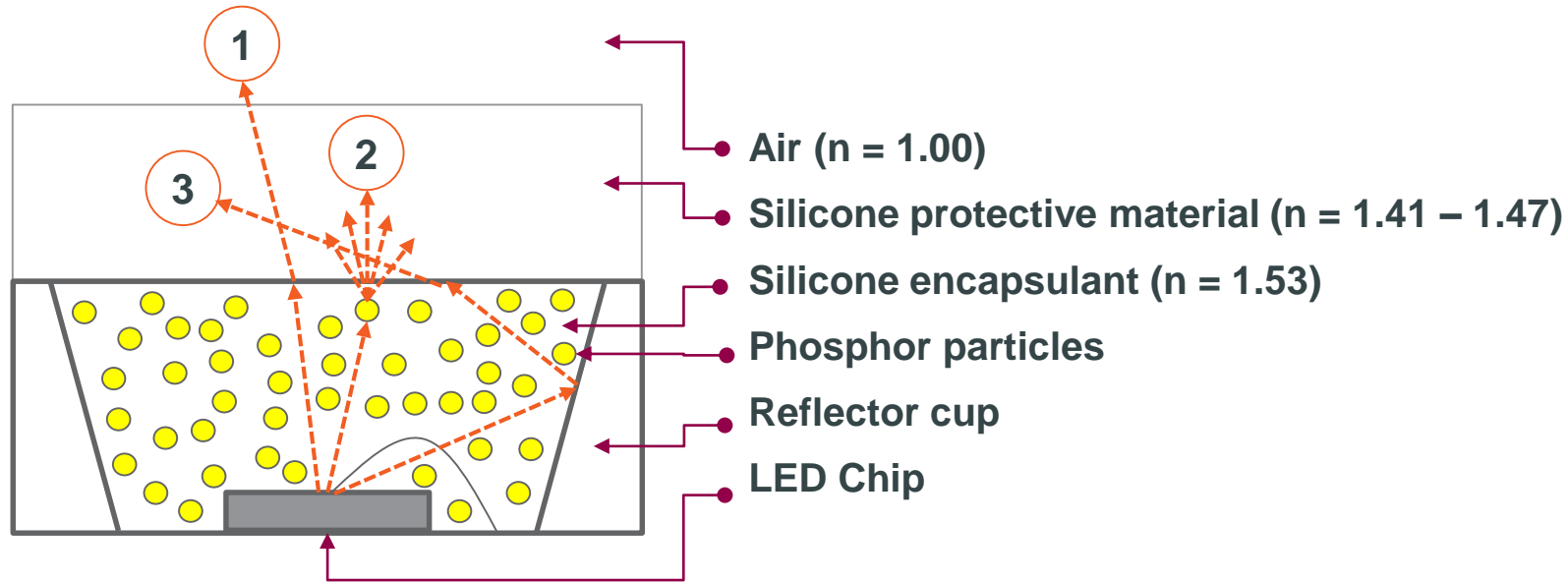
- Impact protection with little impact on light quality

Lens design courtesy of:

**LumenFlow Corp.**  
Photonics Engineering & Manufacturing

# Optical Influence

## Lumen output? Color temperature?



### Protective material can

- Change Fresnel reflection
- Change color converted light
- Change total internal reflection

DOWSIL™ MS-1002  
Moldable Silicone

DOWSIL™ EI-1184  
Encapsulant

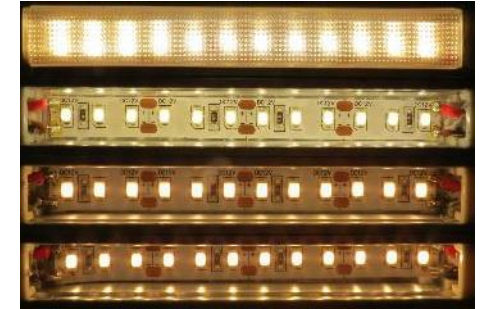
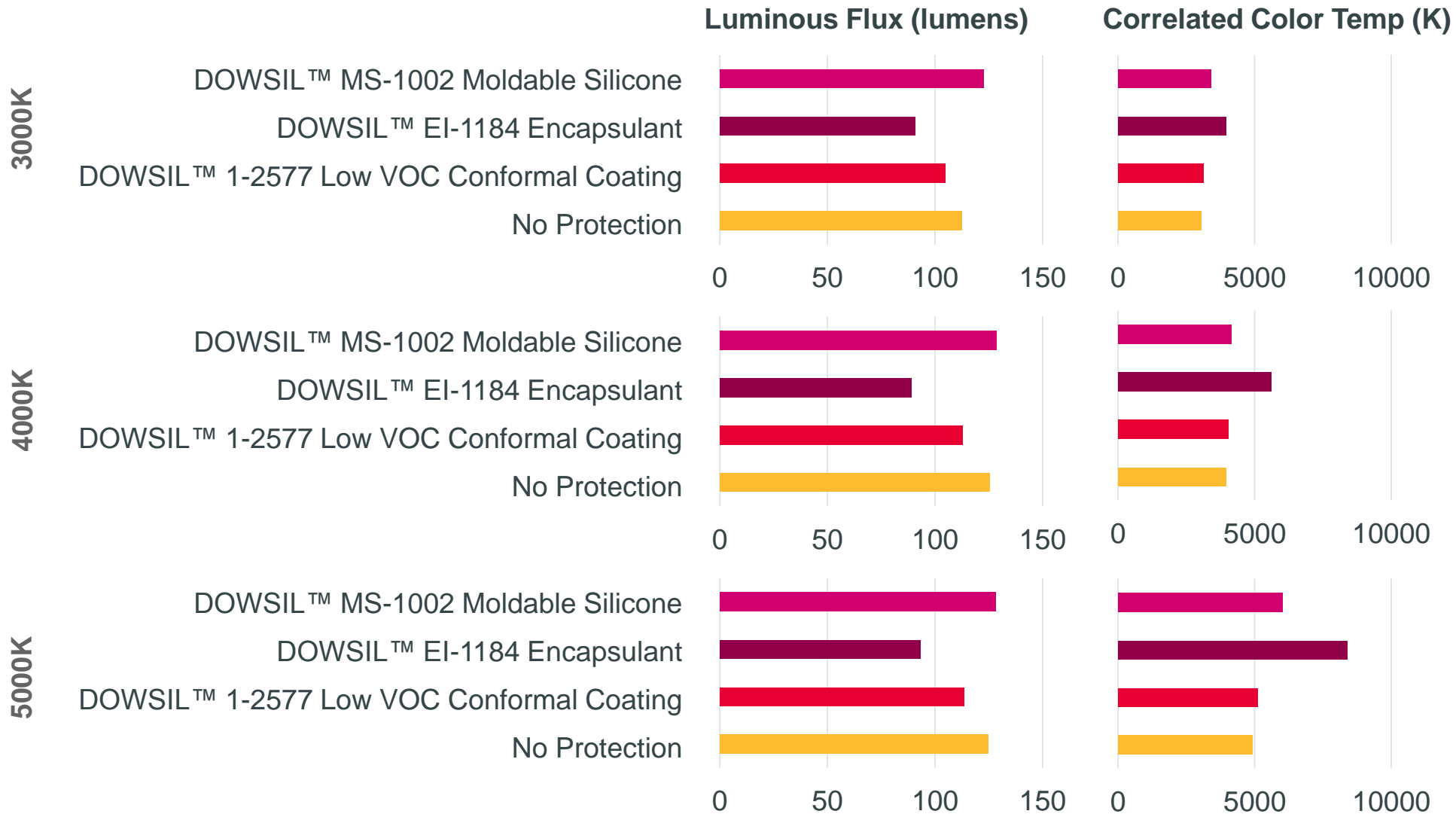
DOWSIL™ 1-2577  
Low VOC Conformal Coating

No Protection





# Optical Influence



# Protective Materials

**New** Solutions.  
**New** Brand Name.

## **DOWSIL™ 1-2577 Low VOC Conformal Coating**

- **Minimally effects Luminous Flux and CCT**
  - But, provides the least amount of protection above bare components

## **DOWSIL™ EI-1184 Optical Encapsulant**

- **Provides significant protection above bare components**
  - But, reduces Luminous Flux and increases CCT

## **DOWSIL™ MS-1002 Moldable Silicone**

- **Slightly increases Luminous Flux and CCT**
  - And, provides significant protection above bare components

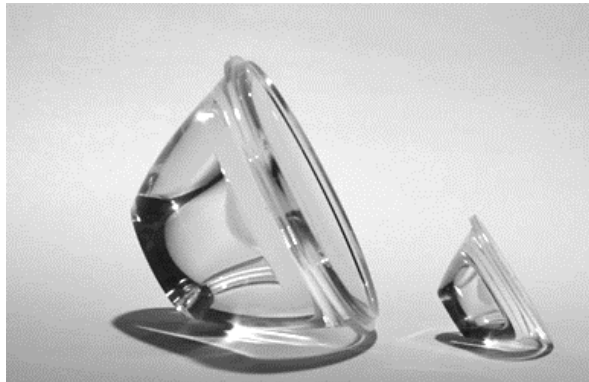




**New** Solutions.  
**New** Brand Name.

**DOWSIL**<sup>™</sup>  
silicones by 

# Moldable Optical Silicones and Design Freedom

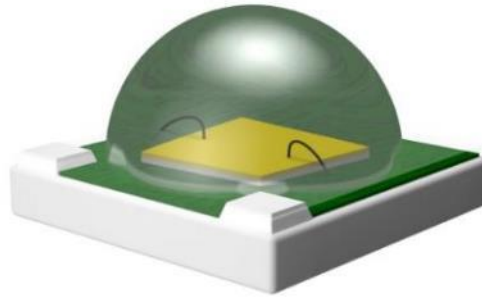


# Moldable Optical Silicones Trends and Opportunities



**Incandescent**  
ca. 1900-2000 AD

**A Lighting Revolution**



**Modern LED**  
ca. 2000-Today

**Performance Silicones Opportunities**

Specialty Applications  
PHILIPS Deep UV Disinfection



Outdoor Lighting VS Lighting  
M-Class Outdoor Lighting Module



Headlamp Assembly  
HELLA KGaA Hueck & Co.  
Matrix LED Module



## Market Trends

- High Power, High Efficiency
- LED Roadway Lighting
- Adaptive Headlights

## Product Trends

- High Photo/Thermal Stability
- Environmental Stability
- Design Flexibility

# Solutions Portfolio - Moldable Optical Silicones



## Designed for Many Applications

- Freeform collimators
- Secondary lenses
- Micro-lens arrays
- Light guides

## Expanded Material Properties

- Hardness
- Viscosity

## Enhanced Optical Performance

- High light transmittance
- Low haze and scatter

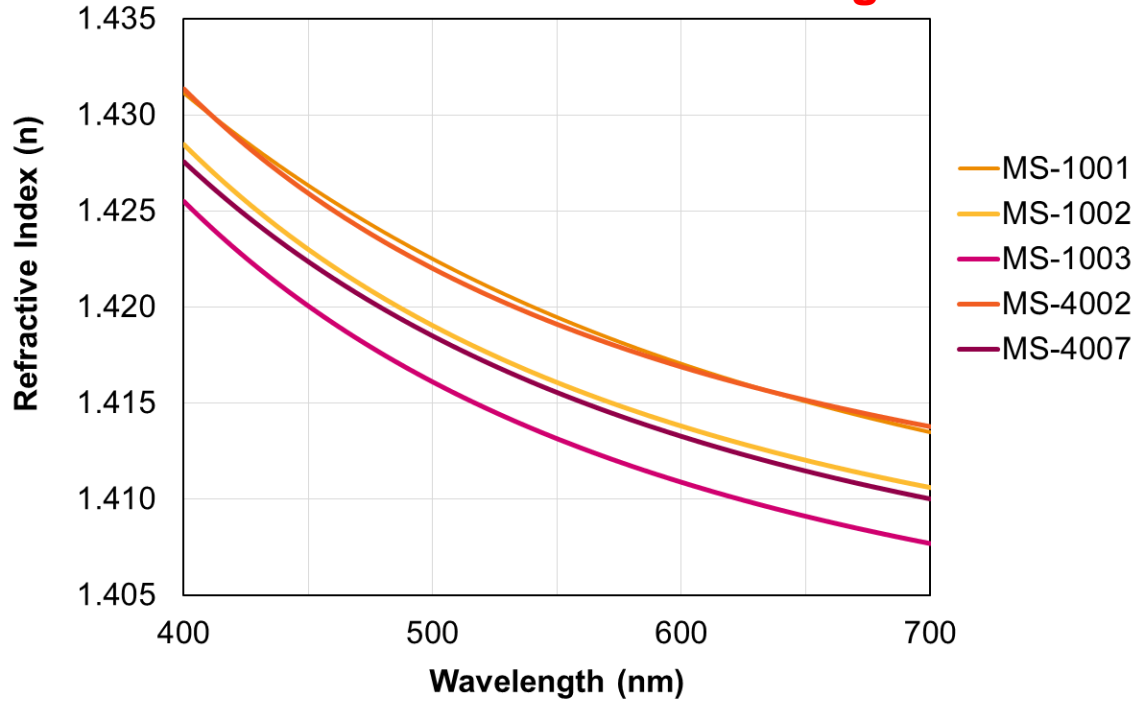
## Diverse Properties Enable Unique Designs

Property	DOWSIL™ MS-1003 Silicone	DOWSIL™ MS-1002 Silicone	DOWSIL™ MS-4007 Silicone	DOWSIL™ MS-4002 Silicone
Viscosity, Part A (Pa-sec)	52	40	28	47
Viscosity, Part B (Pa-sec)	37.5	18	9.5	20
Viscosity, Mixed (Pa-sec)	42.3	26.3	10.5	25
Specific Gravity	1.05	1.07	1.08	1.08
Durometer (Shore A)	51	72	70	84
Tensile Strength (MPa)	5.5	11.2	11.7	11.7
Elongation at Break (%)	325	80	100	60
Linear CTE (by TMA) (ppm/°C )	325	275	270	250

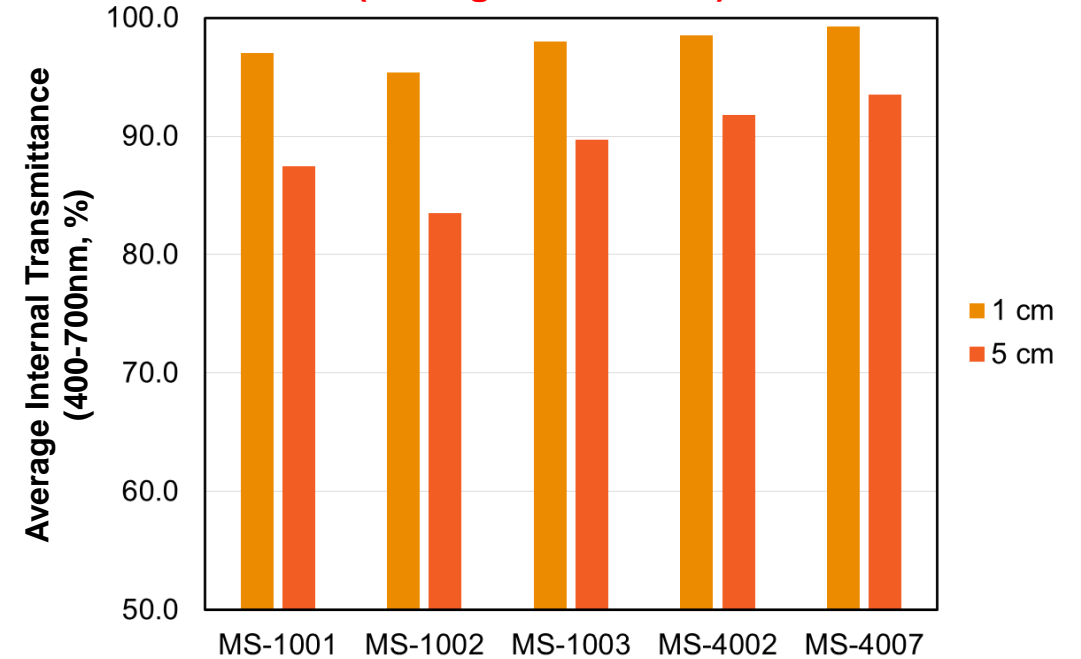
For complete data sheet, visit [consumer.dow.com](http://consumer.dow.com)

# Optical Properties

## Refractive Index vs. Wavelength



## Internal Transmittance (Average 400-700nm)



Property	DOWSIL™ MS-1001 Silicone	DOWSIL™ MS-1002 Silicone	DOWSIL™ MS-1003 Silicone	DOWSIL™ MS-4002 Silicone	DOWSIL™ MS-4007 Silicone
Refractive Index (633 nm)	1.42	1.41	1.41	1.42	1.41
Abbe Number	48.7	50.4	50.1	52.0	48.0

Full optical data sets available upon request for simulation



# HELLA KGaA Hueck & Co.

## Adaptive Headlamps



Dow Corning® Brand Moldable Optical Silicones Help Pave the Way to a Groundbreaking LED Headlamp Design from Hella KGaA Hueck & Co.

Case Study: Hella KGaA Hueck & Co.

### The Challenge

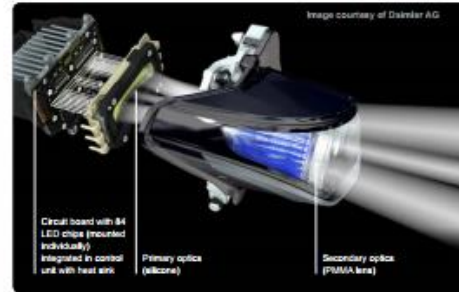
For years, the conventional approach to automotive LED headlamp design relied on mechanical actuators to position the beams of a single, controllable LED row. Hella KGaA Hueck & Co., a leading manufacturer of innovative automotive lighting components, envisioned a more dynamically adaptive solution that needn't rely on mechatronic components.

strong undercut that would have been impractical to impossible to achieve with glass or transparent plastics, as demolding the proposed lens design would require a highly flexible material.

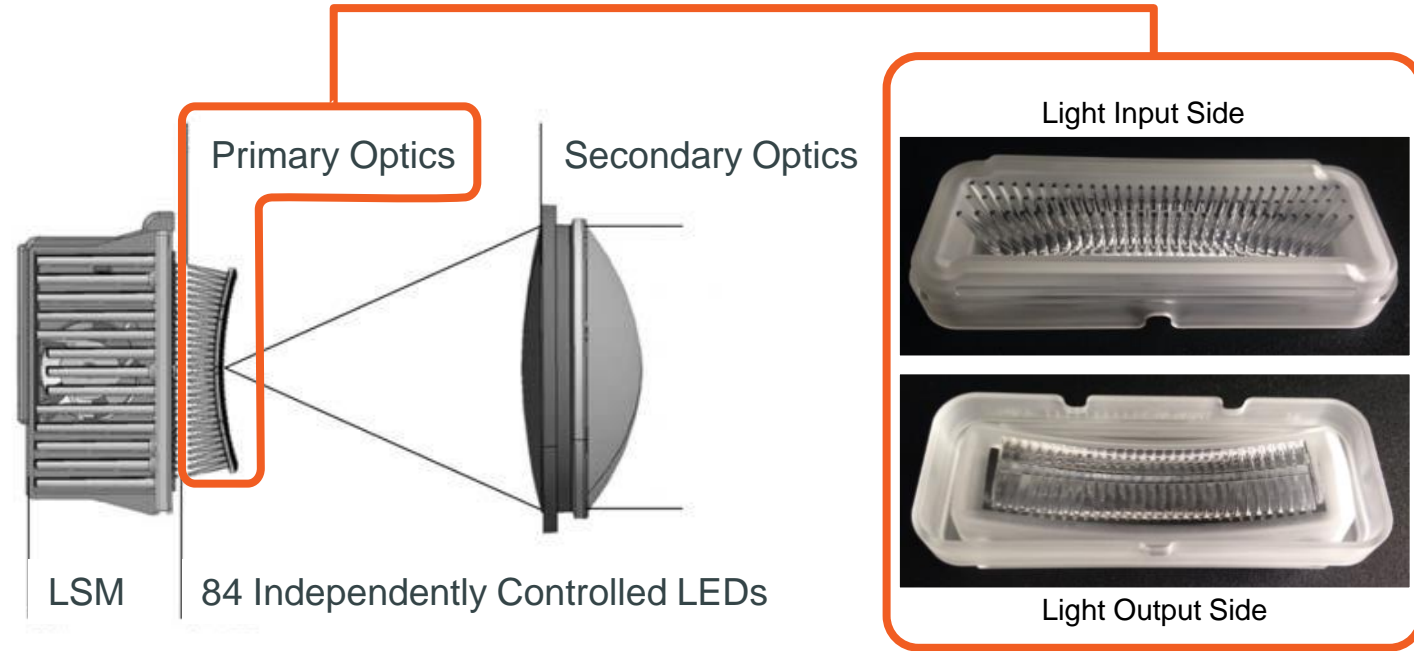
Lastly, in order to optimize optical efficiency, the MULTIBEAM's light guides are positioned in close proximity to its high-power LED dies. Consequently, the primary lens material would need to perform reliably despite long exposure to high temperature and photodensity – organic plastics such as PMMA and PC would darken and turn brown within a relatively short time.



That vision became the award-winning MULTIBEAM LED headlamp. Developed in partnership with Daimler AG, the MULTIBEAM module incorporates 84 individually controllable LED pixels arrayed in three rows, enabling the headlamp to dynamically distribute light in real time based on changing traffic, weather and road conditions. Hella's groundbreaking headlamp module further ensures that the high beam function can be used more

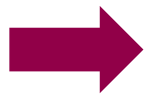


Design implementation of the precision LED grid module – all components have clear interfaces defined with very small tolerances.



## Benefits of DOWSIL™ MS-1002 Moldable Optical Silicone

- Highly flexible material allows demolding with undercuts
- Enables compatibility with High power LEDs



High Complexity Molding  
Lightguides + Lenses





# SoundOff Signal Emergency Vehicle Light



## Emergency Vehicle LED Lighting Gets More Visible — and More Rugged — with Co-molded Silicones from Dow Corning

Case Study: SoundOff Signal

### The Challenge

One rainy night, a motorist calls 9-1-1 for help after getting into a "fender bender" accident with another vehicle. An unmarked police cruiser is the first to arrive on the scene at the dark intersection of two country roads. Suddenly, the plain-looking police vehicle lights up the night. Its previously "invisible" lights send bright warning lights far down the road to alert other motorists of the hazard ahead. The lighting also helps the officer see the accident scene and helps other motorists see the officer.

SoundOff Signal takes its job of manufacturing emergency vehicle lighting and warning electronics seriously. Already a global leader in this type of lighting, the company wanted to create a new, next-generation design to add to their popular lighting options for law enforcement, emergency and amber vehicles.



This employee-owned company in Hudsonville, Michigan, set out to create a new light with a smaller footprint, intense lighting, high quality and long life. The light would need the overall durability to withstand dirt, wet and extreme weather, gravel impacts and other road conditions. In addition to being rugged, the light's materials must offer good photothermal stability to avoid yellowing from intense UV exposure.

### The Solution

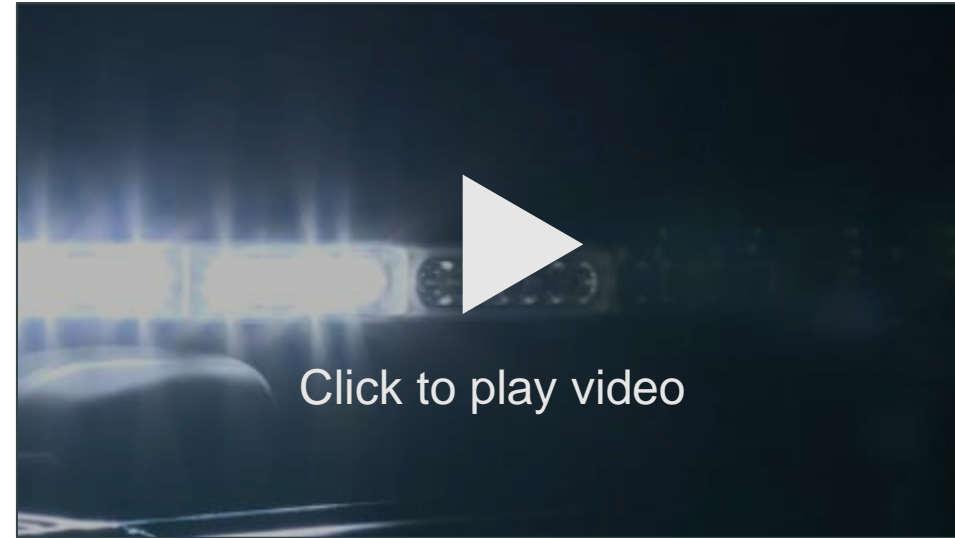
SoundOff Signal created its first-generation optical design called ClearDuty™ technology. This technology and moldable silicone materials allow for the optic (lens) design and the housing to be molded — all in one piece. SoundOff Signal branded this new light as the mPOWER™ Fascia Light. It is the first extremely compact, tri-color line of lighting on the market.

When compared with a traditional polycarbonate lens, the new mPOWER™ Fascia Light has several advantages:

- A small footprint with maximized candela output
- Greater resistance to damage, such as gravel pitting, scratching or cracking
- Improved sealing performance to prevent water from entering the light
- Higher UV and photothermal stability to prevent lens yellowing over time

Smaller and lighter weight, the mPOWER™ Fascia Light can be mounted multiple ways and almost anywhere on a vehicle, including in grills and along tight areas on the sides of vehicles. The size, low profile and flat front make it easy to "disappear" and be unobtrusive.

The three- and four-inch lights have the ability to provide bright head-on and off-angle coverage with configurations of six to 18 LEDs — and up to three colors of LEDs from the same unit.



Video courtesy of SoundOff Signal

## Benefits of DOWSIL™ MS-1002 Moldable Optical Silicone

- Fewer parts ease assembly
- Small footprint with maximized candela output
- Improved sealing performance to prevent water egress
- Greater resistance to gravel pitting, scratching or cracking
- Higher UV & photo-thermal stability to prevent lens yellowing



**Over-molding two different types of moldable silicones**



# Flexible Light Guide Films

## New Illumination Concepts

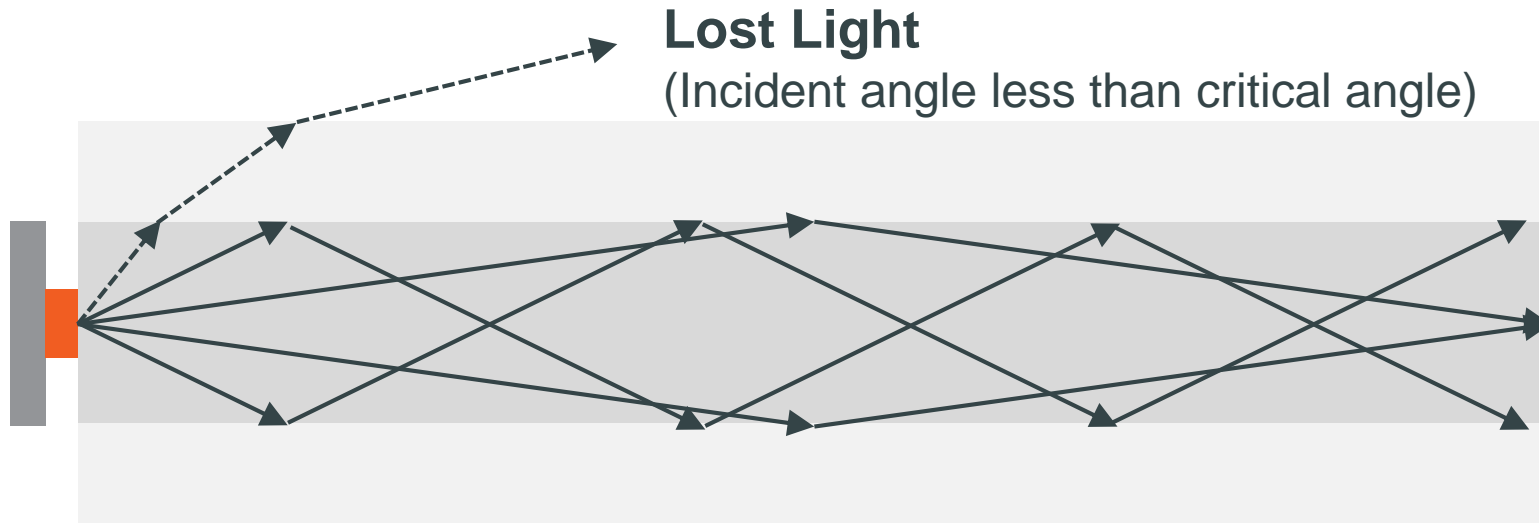


# Flexible Silicone Light Guide Concept

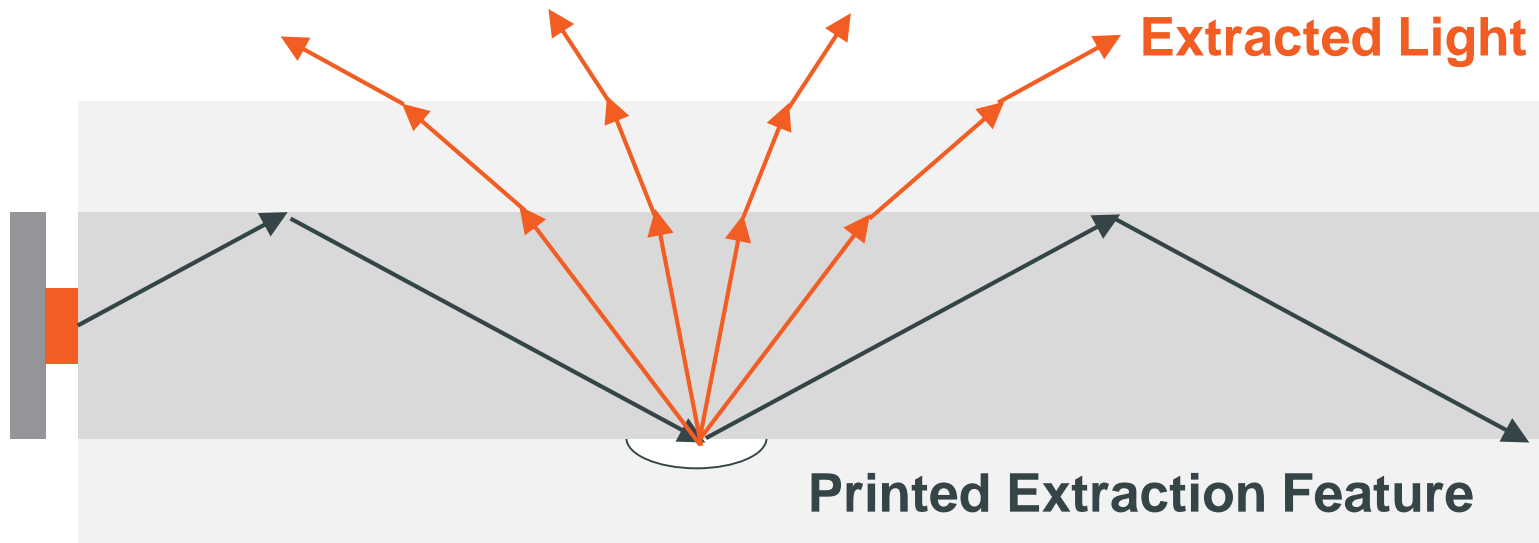


How thin?  
How flexible?  
How clear?  
How useful?

# Flexible Silicone Light Guide Concept



**Propagating Light**  
(Total Internal Reflection)



**Thin Benefit**

- Smaller extraction features
- Reduced design profile

**Thin Challenges**

- Light coupling from LED

# FLEx Lighting

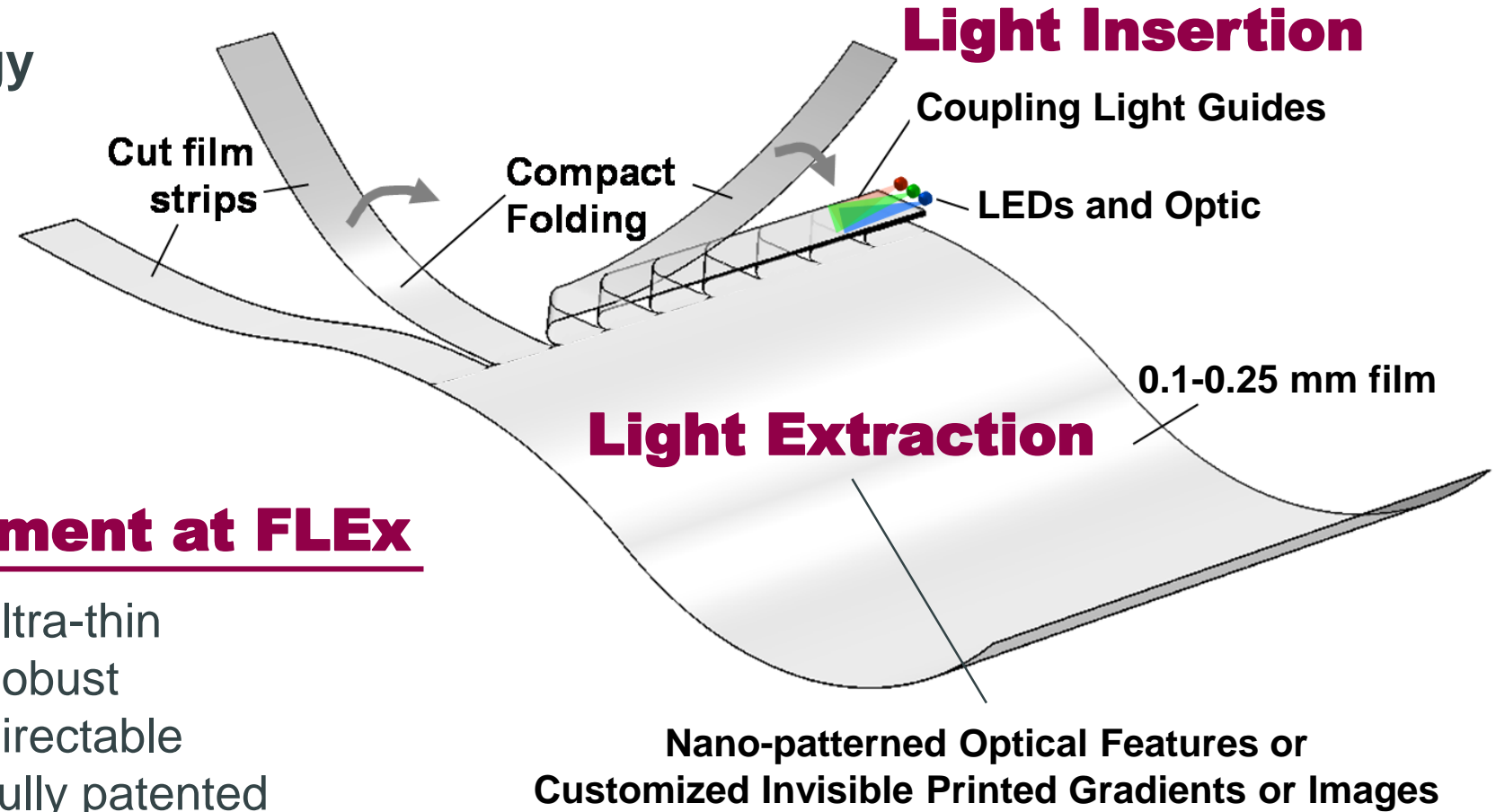
## Control of Light in Thin Films

In collaboration with:  
FLEx Lighting II, LLC.



### FLEx Lighting Technology

Drive LED light into thin films and then **selectively direct it as a lighting source** with great efficiency and control.



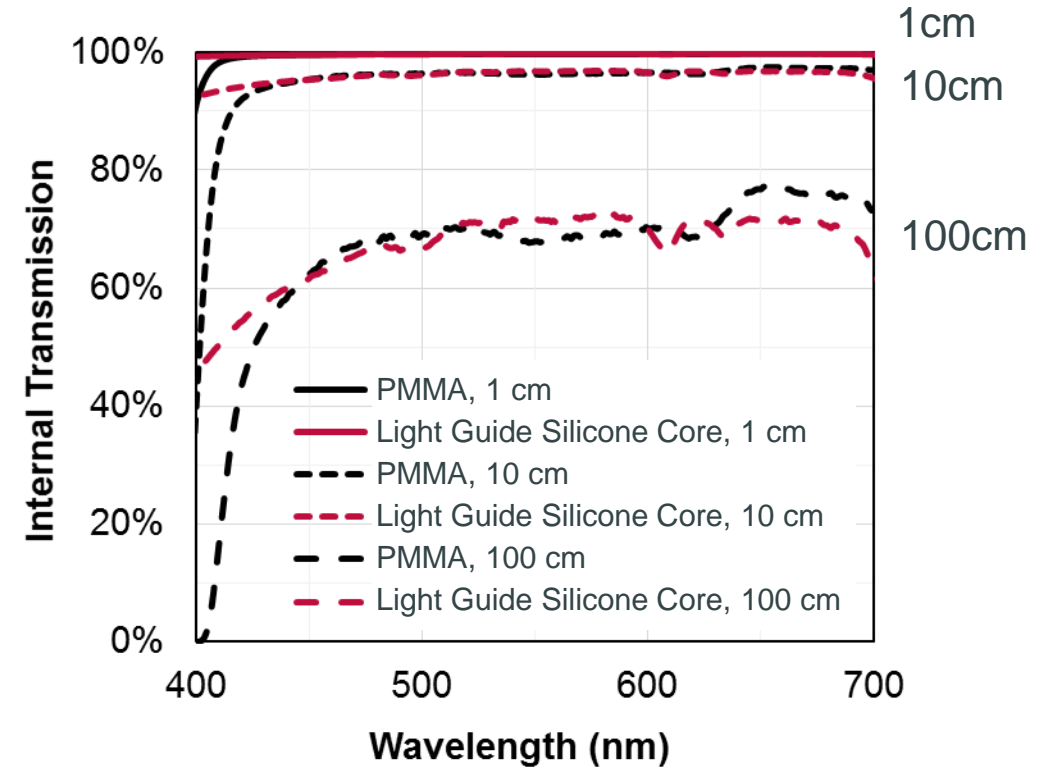
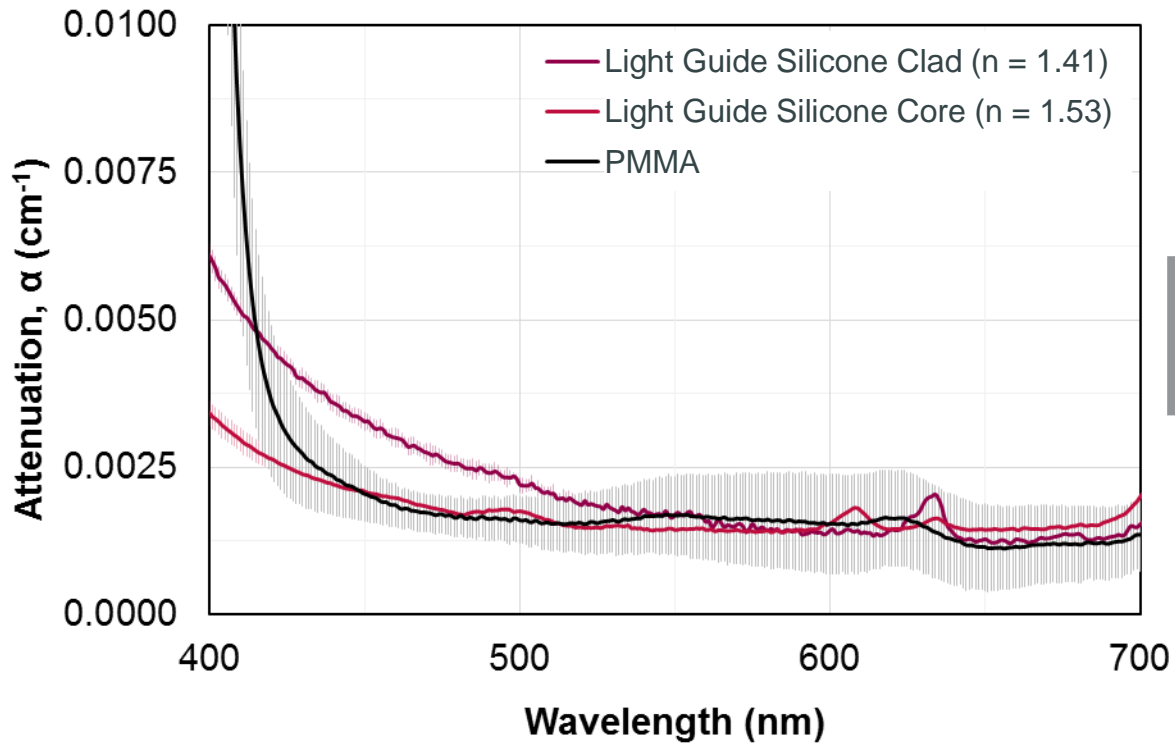
### 10 Years of Development at FLEx

- Power efficient
- Cost reduced
- Flexible
- Uniform
- Ultra-thin
- Robust
- Directable
- Fully patented





# Optical Properties



**Internal Transmission =  $10^{-\alpha z}$**   
 $\alpha$  = attenuation coefficient  
 $z$  = propagation length

**Balanced Transmission  
between 400-700nm**

# Flexible Silicone Light Guide Demo Video


## Flexible. Thin. Brilliant.

- Optical Performance Achieved
- Optical Coupling Demonstrated
- Large Scale Film Production
- Prototyping Options Available



# Summary

**DOWSIL™**

silicones by 

- Creative transportation lighting concepts require new optical materials & products
- New optical silicones from Dow enable performance and design freedom

We look forward to innovating with you!

For more information, go to  
[consumer.dow.com/lighting](http://consumer.dow.com/lighting)





# — Thank You

©™ Trademark of The Dow Chemical Company ("Dow") or an affiliated company of Dow  
© 2018 The Dow Chemical Company. All rights reserved.  
Form No. 11-3884 -01