

## September 6, 2018. ACS MEDIA RELEASE: Michel F. Molaire, Founder & President of Molecular Glasses, Inc. is selected by the Rochester Section of the American Chemical Society as the 2018 recipient of its *Entrepreneur of the Year Award*

An exceptional insight for the design and synthesis of new functional materials, a passion for innovation, coupled with a keen business sense, networking skills and hard work are the hallmarks of the American Chemical Society Rochester Section's "2018 *Entrepreneur of the Year"*, Michel Franz Molaire. Born in Haiti, Mike came to the U.S. in 1971 to do his undergraduate work in Chemical Technology at New York Technical College in Brooklyn, after which he joined the Kodak Research Laboratories. While at Kodak he also received a BS in Chemistry, a MS in Chemical Engineering (polymer science) from the University of Rochester and an MBA from the Simon School, a harbinger of his future as an entrepreneur. His work at Kodak covered a broad scope of organic and polymeric materials for applications in photography, electrophotography, photolithography, thermally developed dye transfer processes and optical recording. After a successful 36-year career at the Kodak Research Laboratories, evidenced by his 57 U.S. patents, the C.E.K. Mees Award for Excellence in Scientific Research and Reporting, induction into the Kodak Distinguished Inventors Gallery, and selection as an African Scientific Institute Fellow. Mike began the next phase of his professional life by forming Molaire Consulting, LLC in 2010 that focused on materials and formulations for high technology applications.

In 2013 Mike identified a need for non-crystallizable OLED materials that could be used in convenient and cost-effective solution-based manufacture of organic light emitting diodes (OLED), a technology invented at Kodak and now the standard for high color quality and resolution in displays and low power consumption lighting. Using his broad experience in materials research, process development, business analysis and planning Mike then founded Molecular Glasses, as a division of Molaire Consulting LLC. Molecular Glasses was incorporated in May 2015 as a Delaware Company and quickly began to develop new materials and accumulate a patent portfolio for these new OLED materials. The Molecular Glasses research and development group at the Eastman Business Park, that includes two of Mike's former Kodak colleagues and company co-founders, Dr. David Weiss and Mark Juba, is developing organic lightemitting diode (OLED) materials that work like semiconductors and will eventually be used to manufacture lower-cost and higher-performance TVs, smartphones, tablets, lighting devices and more. The company currently has 7 employees and is positioned to transform OLED applications across large and small scale displays, automotive electronics, lighting, and more, disrupting a market segment estimated to reach \$4 billion by 2020.

OLEDs are multi-stack devices where each layer (nanometer thickness) has specific electrical and photoelectrical characteristics for a specific function. Currently, Molecular Glasses has developed host materials designed for the specific light-emitting dopants used by OLED manufacturers. In May of this year the company inaugurated its participation at the Society of Information Display annual convention by introducing its new **OLEDIQ**<sup>TM</sup> brand. **OLEDIQ**<sup>TM</sup> materials are carefully designed isomeric small molecule mixtures that are soluble and non-crystallizable. These materials are drop-in for the current thermal/vacuum display manufacturing process and can also be used for solvent-based processes, such as ink-jet printing, without any modification, a first in the industry. These novel materials have been used in prototype OLED devices and have demonstrated a 16-fold improvement in device lifetime in a yellow emitting phosphorescent OLED as compared to a conventional host. Molecular Glasses has one issued U.S. patent and twenty U.S. and international pending patent applications.

Molecular Glasses was recently one of the 10 companies selected from ca.100 competing companies in the U.S., Canada and Europe for participation in the 2018 Luminate-NY inaugural cohort, the world's largest optics, photonics and imaging (OPI) business accelerator. Luminate-NY is focused on advancing next-generation OPI-enabled companies, and is administered by NextCorps and funded by New York State. This award, in addition to an intensive mentorship program for six months, included \$100,000 in financial support for Molecular Glasses.

In addition to his responsibilities at Molecular Glasses, as President, CTO and CEO, Mike also served on the board of the Society for Imaging Science and Technology (IS&T) from 2010 until 2017 and the Rochester Professional Consultant Network (RPCN) from 2012 to 2015.

The ACS award will be presented at the Section's Annual Recognition Dinner at Nazareth College on October 2.



The Rochester Section of the American Chemical Society is the professional organization of some 700 chemists, biochemists, and material scientists in the 6 county Rochester area. For further information see: <u>www.Rochester.sites.ACS.org</u>