

July 7, 2025

Uchihamakasei Corporation

Nippon Paint Automotive Coatings Co., Ltd.

Lexus LM to Debut Japan's First* In-Mold Coated Automotive Body Parts — In-Mold Coated Automotive Body Parts Enter Mass Production —

*Based on information available to Uchihamakasei as of July 2025

Uchihamakasei Corporation (Head Office: Toyota City, Aichi; President and Director: Eiji Kojima; hereinafter “Uchihamakasei”) and Nippon Paint Automotive Coatings Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Hirakata City, Osaka; President and Representative Director: Satoshi Nishimura; hereinafter “NPAC”) have jointly developed an in-mold coating technology for large thermoplastic automotive body parts. This technology will be adopted for the first time in Japan in the pillar part of Toyota Motor Corporation's Lexus LM. Production of the part is scheduled to begin in July 2025, with installation on mass-produced vehicles planned for the same month.

Uchihamakasei is a group company of Kojima Industries Corporation (President: Eiji Kojima), headquartered in Toyota City, Aichi. NPAC is a subsidiary of Nippon Paint Holdings Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Directors, Representative Executive Officers & Co-Presidents: Yuichiro Wakatsuki and Wee Siew Kim).



Lexus LM

Source: Toyota Motor Corporation



Pillar Component Featuring In-Mol Coating Technology

The pillar component for the Lexus LM, now entering mass production, plays a critical role in seamlessly integrating with the vehicle's window glass. As a highly visible exterior part, it must meet

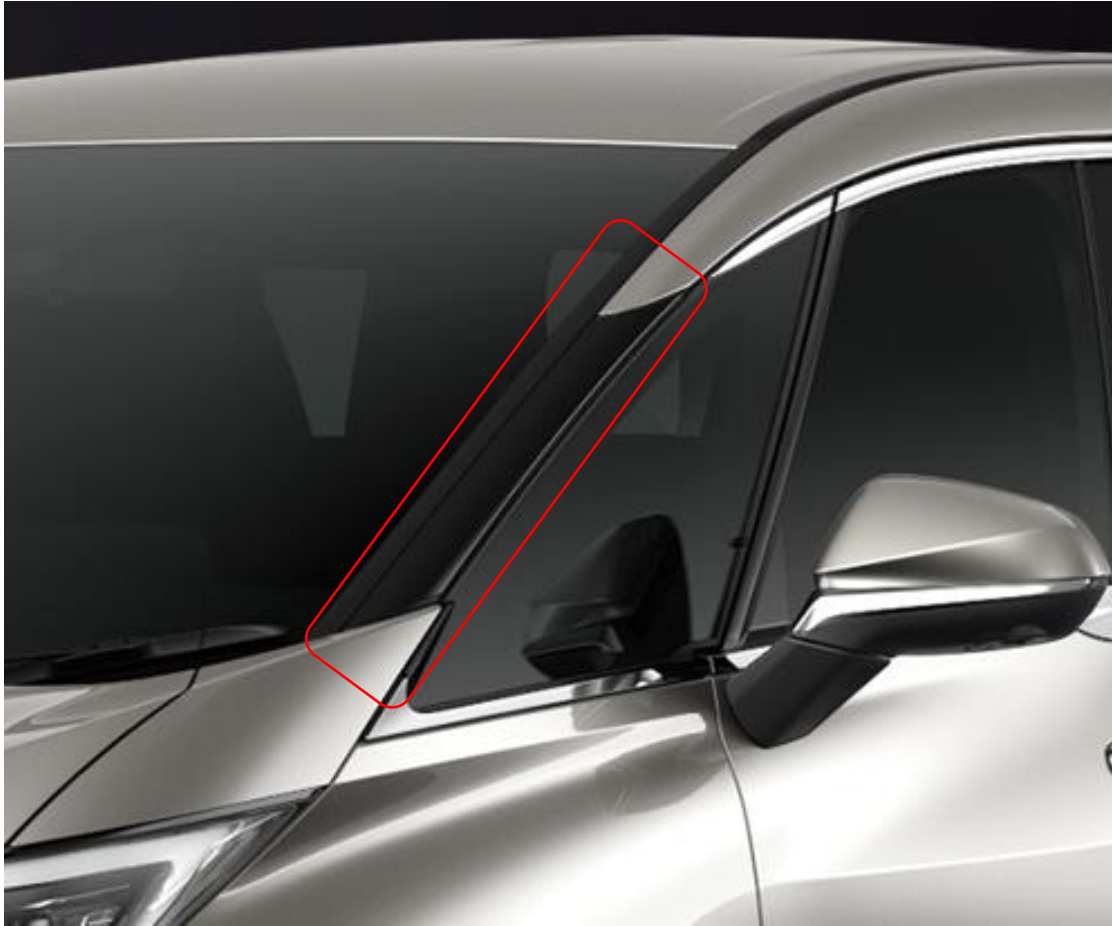
particularly demanding standards for both design precision and durability. To fulfill these requirements, in-mold coating technology provides an exceptionally smooth finish and sophisticated appearance that meets the highest quality standards, while also contributing to environmentally friendly product design by significantly reducing emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). Recognizing the innovation and value this technology offers, the in-mold coated pillar part has been selected for use in mass-produced Lexus LM models, with the cooperation of Toyota Motor Corporation and Toyota Auto Body Co., Ltd.

Jointly developed by Uchihamakasei and NPAC, the in-mold coating technology integrates resin molding and surface finishing into a single, streamlined process. Once the resin is molded, paint is injected directly into the mold to create a uniform coating film on the part's surface. This approach eliminates the need for traditional paint booths and post-coating drying ovens, dramatically shortening production time, reducing CO₂ emissions by approximately 60% (based on Uchihamakasei estimates), and achieving virtually zero VOC emissions. The coating material used in this process is a solvent-free paint developed by NPAC. It provides the same level of surface quality as conventional coatings while reducing VOC emissions by more than 99%.

Looking ahead, we intend to harness the mold transfer capabilities central to in-mold coating technology to develop parts featuring intricate designs, such as geometric patterns and embossed textures, as well as to offer an expanded palette of color variations. These innovations will further enhance the creative possibilities in automotive design.

Uchihamakasei and NPAC remain committed to advancing the adoption of this technology, addressing key challenges in the automotive industry, and contributing to the realization of a more sustainable society.

<Close-up view of the in-mold coated component>



▼ For more information on in-mold coating technology, please refer to the press release issued on March 3, 2025:

Nippon Paint Jointly Develops Next-Generation In-Mold Coating Technology —
Advancing Carbon Neutrality in Automotive Coating Processes —

Uchihamakasei Corporation:

<https://www.kojima-tns.co.jp/uchihama/post-2167/>

Nippon Paint Automotive Coatings Co., Ltd.:

https://www.nipponpaint-holdings.com/news_release/2025_03_03_npac/

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