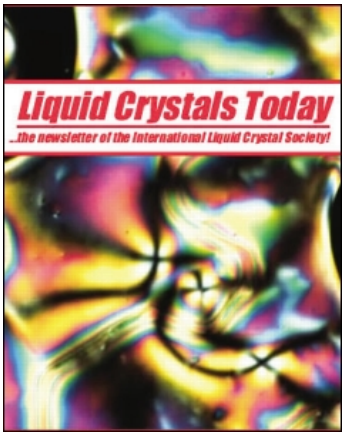

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NEWS from around the Liquid Crystal World: EC LIQUID CRYSTAL NETWORKS

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NEWS from around the Liquid Crystal World

EC LIQUID CRYSTAL NETWORKS

A major development of the European Communities science programme is the establishment of networks between European laboratories involved in various areas of scientific research. The purpose of the networks is to encourage mobility of young scientists between different laboratories, and to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise in precompetitive research.

The first round of networks announced includes 3 concerned with liquid crystal research, but additional liquid crystal networks may be funded in the future. The networks will have a number of postdoctoral positions available, and may be expanded to include other non-EC countries of continental Europe. Brief details of the liquid crystal networks already announced are given below, and further information may be obtained from the network coordinators. As other liquid crystal networks come on stream, details will be given in *Liquid Crystals Today*.

"Ferroelectric Liquid Crystals for Displays & Optical Devices": Simulation of addressing of displays and realisation of a prototype. Physics of bistability and switching, consisting of developing simulation programmes for optical transmission, determining the influence of layer ordering on the existence and stability of analogue grey levels, and developing new optical devices for communication and computing. Study of new materials involving the creation of low molar host materials with low viscosity and dopants with high spontaneous polarisation, synthesis of novel polymeric FLC materials, and characterisation of the new materials.

Participating laboratories and team leaders

Coordinator: **H Pauwels**, Laboratory of Electronics, Univ of Ghent, Sint Pietersnieuwstraat 41, B-9000 Ghent, BELGIUM,
J W Goodby, School of Chemistry, Univ of Hull, UK,
E Lueder, Inst Network & System Theory, Univ of Stuttgart, GERMANY
J M Oton, Technologica Fotonica, Univ of Madrid, SPAIN,
P Maltese, INFM, Univ of Rome, ITALY
S Lagerwall, Physics Dept, Chalmers Univ of Tech, SWEDEN
M Brunet, Groupe de Dynamique des Phases Condensés, Univ of Montpellier II, FRANCE
E Chiellini, INFM Univ of Pisa, ITALY
R Bartolino, INFM, Univ di Cosenza, ITALY
J Sambles, Physics Dept, Univ of Exeter, UK
G Scherowsky, Inst für Organische Chemie, Technische Universität, Berlin, GERMANY

"Liquid Crystals: Macroscopic properties": New materials, including metalloorganics, anti-ferroelectrics, custom polymers, materials with enhanced flexoelectric or electroclinic properties, confined materials, biaxial materials. New effects, such as LC surface interactions, surface -bistability, volume-bistability, thin films, multilayered films, biaxial effects.

Participating laboratories and team leaders

Coordinator: **R Bartolino**, Department of Physics, INFM Cosenza, Universita della Calabria, 87036 Arcavacata di Rende (CS) ITALY,
M Ghedini, Cosenza, ITALY
G Barbero, Torino, ITALY
L Fronzoni, Pisa, ITALY
E Santamato, Napoli, ITALY
G Durand, Orsay, FRANCE
J Malthete, Orsay, FRANCE
N H Tinh, Bordeaux, FRANCE
M Warenghem, Lille, FRANCE
F M Leslie, Univ of Strathclyde, UK
T Tchudi, Univ of Darmstadt, GERMANY
M Schadt, Hoffman-Laroche, SWITZERLAND

"Molecular Organisation in Liquid Crystals resulting from particular Intermolecular Interactions": The focus of this network is molecular design, synthesis, characterisation and property measurements of liquid crystals, which result from specific interactions and organisation. Modelling and simulation will be used to predict phase behaviour, and synthesis of designer molecules and subsequent physical characterisation will test the predictions. Features to be explored include molecular flexibility, shape, hydrogen bonding, dipole interactions, charge-transfer stabilisation and magnetic interactions.

Participating laboratories and team leaders

Coordinator: **D A Dunmur**, Centre for Molecular Materials, Dept of Chemistry, Univ of Sheffield, Sheffield, S3 7HF, UK.
G R Luckhurst, Dept Chemistry, Univ of Southampton, UK
D Guillon, IPCMS, Strasbourg, FRANCE
C Zannoni, Dept Chemistry, Bologna, ITALY
M A Perez-Jubindo, Dept Appl Physics, Bilbao, SPAIN
K Praefcke, Institut für Organische Chemie, Technische Universität, Berlin, GERMANY
J-L Serrano, Dept Chemistry, Univ of Zaragoza, SPAIN
D Photinos, Dept Physics, Univ of Patras, GREECE
S Faetti, Dept Physics, Univ of Pisa, ITALY
P Maldivi, Centre Nucleaire, Grenoble, FRANCE ❑

LC Lab established in the Philippines

The first Liquid Crystals Laboratory in the Philippines has been established by Dr Zenaida B Domingo at the National Institute of Physics, College of Science, University of the Philippines . The Laboratory has an inter-institute link with the Institute of Chemistry, headed by Dr Titos Quibuyen. Current research projects include the fabrication of PDLCs for IR applications and studies on the anti-mutagenic properties of locally synthesized cholesteric liquid crystals. The new LC Laboratory also has links with the Liquid Crystal Institute, Kent State University, Ohio and with Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology. ❑

From the Editor:

This expanded issue of *Liquid Crystals Today* is mainly given over to an article by Jane Frommer on Scanning Probe Microscopy, which promises exciting new perspectives on the understanding of organised phases; we can expect many new developments in the application of STM and AFM to liquid crystals. *Liquid Crystals Today* welcomes feature articles on new techniques, or developments in liquid crystal research, and encourages comments, and the exchange of ideas through its pages. Readers may also submit short items to the Scientific Notes column. ❑

Comments & Contributions to:

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