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Liquid Crystals Today

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KEEPING UP-TO-DATE?

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LIQUID CRYSTALS Today

Vol. 1, No. 2

June 1991

Feature article:
Focus on Italy

Newsletter of the International Liquid Crystal Society

KEEPING UP-TO-DATE?

Here is No 2 of *Liquid Crystals Today*. Comments received from members on the first edition were most encouraging, and the format was liked. However, colour printing is expensive and we cannot promise to maintain it for all issues, although we will try. The determining factor will be the income received by the Society through members' subscriptions, so please make sure you have paid your fees.

Access to scientific literature is changing. Constraints both of time and library budgets mean that it is no longer possible for many scientists to scan journals as they appear, and increasing reliance is placed on abstracting services. These may be publications or on-line systems, but whichever method is used, scientists spend less time leafing through the regular journals. However new journals continue to appear, and the demand for publication increases.

Now there is a new development in scientific publishing, which might help to maintain direct access to papers: it is the magazine style journal, which contains digests, short articles and reviews. Potentially these can provide a fast way of keeping in touch with a broad range of topics. Perhaps *Liquid Crystals Today* can fulfil this role, and as an

experiment in this issue we have initiated a scientific notes column.

For this we invite short accounts of significant new developments in liquid crystal science. The research should normally have been subjected to the reviewing procedures of standard journals, and submitting members should apply their own high standards of assessment before sending in contributions. Decisions on publication will rest with the Regional Editors.

Other items of interest, such as news items, notices of meetings, conference reports, reviews, letters, new product information, vacant positions etc are of course essential, as well and should be sent to David Dunmur at the address below, or to any of the Regional editors listed under Society News (page 7).

Comments and Contributions to:

Dr D A Dunmur,
Secretary to the ILCS,
Dept of Chemistry, University of
Sheffield, Sheffield S3 7HF, UK.

Fax: (742) 738673
E-mail: CH1DAD@UK.AC.
SHEFFIELD.PRIMEA

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COMMERCIAL COMMENT

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1990 was characterised by further strong growth for supertwist displays and a variety of new laptops, notebooks and organisers. High points in technical respects were the newest prototypes or products in 'pre-launch stage' from for example, Hosiden, Sharp, NTT amongst other Japanese manufacturers, which were shown in Amsterdam, Tokyo and Munich in sizes up to 15".

The leading role of Sharp in the development of new LCD modules was honoured recently in Hamburg by the award of the Eduard Rhein prize. The 20th anniversary of the discovery of the twisted nematic effect by Drs M Schadt and W Helfrich was marked by a celebration at Hoffmann-La Roche Basel. Dr G Heilmeyer received the "Computer & Communications Award" from NEC in Japan for his pioneering contributions to the fundamental discovery of electrooptic effects.

At a company level the take-over of a 75% majority shareholding in VDO's LCD business as well as a joint venture with Hyundai in Korea consolidated Optrex's leading role in automobile applications. Further developments include STC in Korea (takeover by Taesuk), RACAL Microelectronics in England (the LCD production line will be shut down at the end of 1990) and Phillips (reorganisation and partial reduction of LCD production in Holland). Positive developments in Europe are new activities and projects from Autodisplay, Thomson LCD, Crystallid-Europe in Spain, a new Toshiba PC-factory in Regensburg/Germany, the takeover of STC/UK by Northern Telecom as well as the definitive agreement for the joint venture Finlux/Lohja/Planar in the EL sector. In the USA new liquid crystal activities are forming around Kent State University and new plastic-and-glass applications (Taliq-Raychem).

R Bucher

In This Issue:

Book Review & New Books Information	p2
Cholesterics already described in 1838!	p3
Miscellany	p3
Liquid Crystal Science: Focus on Italy	p4-5
Meeting Reports	p6
Society News	p7
Scientific Notes	p7
Forthcoming Meetings	p8