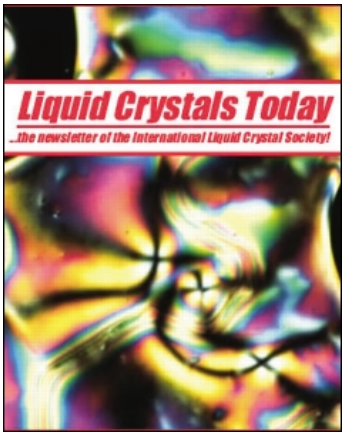

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Liquid Crystals Today and Tomorrow

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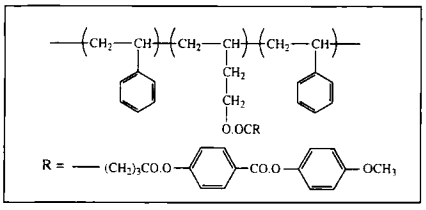

diene-*block*-polystyrene. The block ratio of polystyrene/liquid crystal was approximately 10 wt % / 90 wt % and this resulted in a morphology in which spherical polystyrene domains act as physical crosslinks in a liquid crystal matrix. The authors noted that these materials can be thought of as thermoplastic liquid crystalline elastomers.

In aqueous solutions, ionic surfactants and oppositely charged polyelectrolytes form complexes which precipitate out of solution. The properties of these complexes in non-aqueous solvents and in the solid state are now being studied. Antonietti and Conrad (*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* 1994 **33** 1869) investigated the polyelectrolyte-surfactant complex formed on mixing polyacrylic acid and dodecyltrimethylammonium chloride. The isolated complex in the solid state exhibits a highly ordered liquid crystalline structure in which the polyelectrolyte is embedded in a continuous alkyl matrix. The polymer chains occupy cylinders in which they are almost fully extended and such a morphology although well known in nature, prior to this study did not have a synthetic analogue.

Society NEWS

International Liquid Crystal Conferences in 1998 and 2000

The International Liquid Crystal Conferences (ILCC) organized on behalf of the Society, provide a unique forum in which to learn of the most recent and the most exciting research in the field. A key element in the success of these conferences is the choice of enthusiastic and efficient organizers as well as a sympathetic location. This choice is made well in advance of the conference, in fact normally four years before the event. At this stage, the Society invites detailed bids from those wishing to host the meeting. However, in 1994, it was decided to accept such applications not only for the 17th ILCC in 1998 but, in view of its special significance, for the 18th ILCC to be held in the year 2000 and so allow ample time for its planning. Extremely strong bids were received by the Chairman of the Conference Committee, Professor Hans Rainer Trebin. Under his expert guidance, the bids were considered in depth by the Board of Directors and the results of these considerations are now known. I am pleased to announce that by a very clear majority, the Board of Directors has decided that in 1998, the 17th ILCC will be held in Strasbourg (France) while in 2000, the 18th ILCC will take place in Nagoya (Japan). Both are exciting venues; in 1998, the Society will return to France after an absence of 20 years while in 2000 we shall be back in Japan also after 20 years.

The 17th ILCC will be in capable hands of Professor Antoine Skoulios as Conference Chairman together with Professor Daniel Guillon as the Secretary. The Conference will be held in the splendid Palais de La Music et des Congress and the provisional dates are 20–24 July 1998. Clearly, there is much planning to be done but what is promised now is the active participation by Professor P.G. de Gennes and Professor J.M. Lehn in the Conference. This is clearly going to be a scientific treat which we can look forward to with eager anticipation. It will be well matched by the famous cuisine of Strasbourg and beautiful region of Alsace.

The 18th ILCC will be the responsibility of Professor Shunsuke Kobayashi, the Vice-President of the Society, and Professor Koji Okana. They have selected Nagoya, Design City for the 21st century, as the venue for ILCC 2000. Nagoya is a modern, vibrant city with historical traditions dating back to the 17th century; the conference will be held in the Nagoya Congress Center.

Liquid Crystals Today and Tomorrow

Since the inception of the International Liquid Crystal Society in 1990, the Newsletter *Liquid Crystals Today* has played a significant role in the development of the Society. In addition, the Newsletter provides a valuable source of information to our members not only about the Society's affairs, but also about developments in the subject. Thanks to David Dunmur's enthusiasm, vision and hard work, *Liquid Crystals Today* has proved to be an outstanding success as all of its readers will be aware. The Newsletter did, however, constitute a significant financial burden on the Society's limited resources which, in turn, has its impeded development and growth. For the past year or so, David and I have been exploring the possibility of entering into a partnership with a publisher in order to produce *Liquid Crystals*

Today; not only to reduce our costs but more importantly, to achieve an enhancement of its coverage. After extensive discussions with two potential publishers and consultations with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, we have decided to collaborate with Taylor & Francis Ltd in the publication of *Liquid Crystals Today*. Taylor & Francis Ltd have a long tradition of scientific publication, in fact since 1798, although more recently they have produced the international journal *Liquid Crystals*. In entering into the new arrangements, the Society has been especially concerned that the editorial control of the Newsletter should remain our responsibility. Thus *Liquid Crystals Today* will continue to be the official publication of the International Liquid Crystal Society; the editorial team will be appointed by the Society and the policy of the newsletter will be determined by this editorial team. In return for the editorial effort in producing copy for the new, enlarged newsletter, the Publishers will provide every member of the Society with a free copy for their personal and private use. The arrangements that we have agreed will, I believe, be or considerable value to the Society and of potential benefit to Taylor & Francis. The agreement will run for an initial period of five years and will then be reviewed. However, it may be terminated at any instant, subject to nine months notice, although it is difficult to conceive of situations when we would wish to do so.

The Society now has a newsletter which can be developed to meet the growing needs of its members and to provide a service to the subject at large. I am delighted that David Dunmur has agreed to continue as Editor of *Liquid Crystals Today*, at least for a further year, since this will ensure a smooth transition and can only increase the chances of a successful development. However, to guarantee success, demands the active support of the membership of the Society for the editorial team and I urge you to give them your support.

Geoffrey R. Luckhurst, President
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LIQUID CRYSTALS ON THE WORLD-WIDE WEB

The International Liquid Crystal Society now has a presence on the World-Wide Web through a server established at the Liquid Crystal Institute, Kent State University, Ohio, USA. The address of the server is:

http://alcom.kent.edu/ILCS

Information available at present includes members' addresses, forthcoming meetings and positions vacant. It is expected that additional material will become accessible in the future.

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BOOKS

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