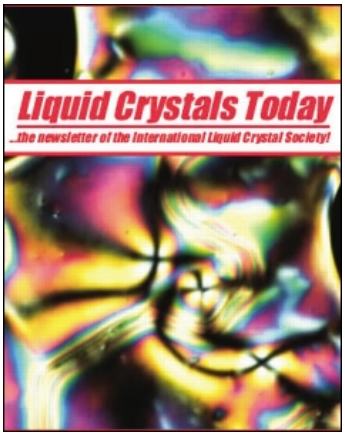

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The world's largest LCD production facility nears completion in Japan

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Company NEWS

The world's largest LCD production facility nears completion in Japan

Sharp Corporation is constructing the world's largest-scale dedicated manufacturing facility for LCD panels in Taki-cho, Taki County, Mie Prefecture. Located between Osaka and Nagoya Cities this region is known worldwide for its fine cultured pearls. The breadth of equipment and devices using advanced liquid-crystal display panels will grow tremendously in coming years, and this new plant is designed to meet the expected increase in demand.

The Mie Plant will manufacture the most technologically advanced LCDs, full-colour TFT (thin-film transistor) LCD displays, including the thin-profile displays designed for use in the next generation of audio/video equipment, colour personal computers, and multimedia equipment. The flagship product will be 10-inch and larger, wide-viewing-angle, high-resolution, full-colour TFT LCD displays which the electronics industry around the globe is expecting to be available in volume in the near future.

The Mie Plant will also be equipped with an advanced CIM (computer integrated manufacturing) system which uses a sophisticated computer network to link the various aspects of LCD production, from product planning, design, and development to manufacturing, control and physical distribution. In addition, Sharp's proprietary production processes and automated assembly clusters are expected to boost production efficiency.

It is expected that production will begin in July 1995, and will rise to an output of 150 000 units/month during 1995.

ROLIC

The foundation of a new company ROLIC has been recently announced, which is a spin-off from the Liquid Crystal Group of F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd. ROLIC will develop new liquid crystal devices, and will provide electronics manufacturers with new generations of products, as well as designing and developing new functional organic materials in prototype quantities to support device development.

New technologies under ROLIC patents include

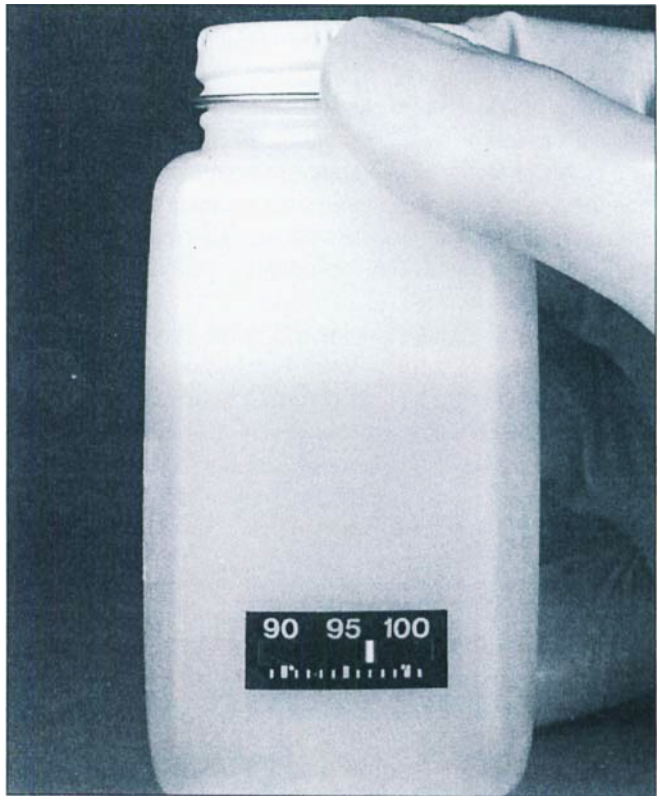
- Deformed helix ferroelectric liquid crystal displays
- High resolution cholesteric LCD projection systems
- Photo-patternable nonlinear optical materials
- Optically-patternable anisotropic photopolymers

The Chief Executive Officer of the new company, based in Basel, is Dr Martin Schadt, who can be contacted at Rolic Ltd, Grebzacherstrasse 124, 4002, Basel, Switzerland; Fax 41-61-688-1466.

HALLCREST

Hallcrest, Inc., the leading developer and manufacturer of thermochromic (cholesteric) liquid crystal products announces the expansion of its manufacturing facilities at its wholly owned UK subsidiary, Hallcrest Ltd, in Poole, Dorset, UK. The company also has three manufacturing plants in the USA, in Glenview (near Chicago), Illinois, Dayton, Ohio and Atlanta, Georgia.

Products include colour-change temperature indicating devices and labels, temperature-sensitive inks and coatings, raw materials for cosmetic skin-care and toiletries products and liquid crystal formulations for use in engineering research and non-destructive testing. Major market segments include promotional, consumer (e.g. baby safety, forehead, aquarium and refrigerator/freezer thermometers), medical and laboratory, industrial and specialty chemicals and coatings.



The company is also the world's only producer of unique second generation analogue liquid crystal temperature indicators and labels. These eliminate the need for colour interpretation in their reading and have already established dominant positions in selected markets. These products will be made available for the first time outside the USA during 1995 and the company has high expectations for their sales in the future. Hallcrest sells its products worldwide with international sales outside the USA accounting for in excess of 25% of total revenues and growing rapidly.

For more information contact: Dr M. Parsley, Hallcrest, 1820 Pickwick Lane, Glenview, Illinois 60025, USA; Tel +(708) 998 8580; Fax +(708) 998 8051.