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Entrepreneur acquires Rolic Ltd from F. Hoffman-La Roche

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COMPANY NEWS

Entrepreneur acquires ROLIC Ltd from F. Hoffman-La Roche

Karl Nicklaus, the Swiss entrepreneur with strong activities in electronics engineering, has acquired the interdisciplinary research and development company ROLIC Ltd from F. Hoffman-La Roche.

For more than 25 years ROLIC has pioneered liquid crystal displays (LCD) and liquid crystal materials technologies. The know-how of ROLIC is covered by more than 70 basic patent series which are constantly expanded by new inventions. The physicists and chemists of ROLIC are internationally leading scientists in the field of liquid crystals. In 1970 Martin Schadt, CEO of ROLIC, discovered and patented together with Wolfgang Helfrich the twisted nematic effect at Roche. Most of today's liquid crystals are based on this effect.

Under its new owner ROLIC will continue its close

collaboration with Roche. The new ownership warrants ROLIC's independence and provides the company with new opportunities to expand its interdisciplinary research and development activities and to intensify its international collaborations. At present ROLIC employs 30 scientists and engineers. The company will further expand its new technologies in the field of liquid crystals and display-specific functional organic materials in the Basel area.

Further information:

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Increasing Interest in Lyotropics

In 1997 the Laboratory of Liquid Crystals of Ivanova State University organizes two conferences. On 19 May 1997 there will be a local conference devoted to the 20th anniversary of our laboratory and on 16-18 December there will be the 3rd International Meeting on Lyotropic Liquid Crystals. The latter keeps the traditions of the previous conferences on Lyotropic Liquid Crystals which were held in Ivanova (1990, 1993) and scientists from many countries of the former USSR took part in them. The material of these two conferences were published in *Bull. Acad. Sci. Russia*.

Ivanova was the first scientific centre in the USSR where 30 years ago Professor I. Chistyakov revived the investigations of liquid crystals. His collaborators and he

organized and held in Ivanova five all-Union conferences on liquid crystals.

During the forthcoming 3rd International Meeting the following topics will be discussed: dispersed systems as precursors of lyomesophases, lyotropic mesomorphism of low-molecular weight systems, lyotropic mesomorphism of polymers, lyotropic liquid crystals in living matter, and applications of lyomesophases. The Organizing Committee consists of scientists from Russia, the Ukraine, Tadjikistan, Italy, Germany, Poland and Bulgaria.

As interest in the problems of lyotropic mesomorphism grew, several special conferences were held both in Russia and in other countries of the

world. Similar meetings took place in Italy (School on lyotropics, 1982), Bulgaria (International school-colloquium 'Lyotropics and Biomembranes', 1984), Germany (65th Bunsen-Kolloquium 'Lyotropic Liquid Crystals', 1996). In spite of the growing interest in the problems of lyotropic liquid crystals, in the field of lyotropic mesomorphism theory and its physics, research is very limited. The meetings of scientists not only from Europe but from many countries of the world will be able to promote these investigations. This is the point of view of the members of the organizing staff of the 3rd International Meeting on Lyotropic Liquid Crystals.

Professor Nadejda Usol'tseva
LLC'97 Conference Chair

LIQUID CRYSTALS ON THE WORLD-WIDE WEB

The International Liquid Crystal Society 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 be accessible in the future.

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