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PRODUCT NEWS

High Reflective TFT-LCDs and Plastic LCD Modules from Sharp

Sharp presented significant new developments in LCD Technology at the German trade show Electronica held in November 1998 in Munich. Highly reflective TFT colour displays have now been produced that require no backlighting, and so will be ideal in portable instruments, which will be able to operate without external power for long periods. In another advance, Sharp's liquid crystal display researchers have succeeded in developing a highly robust and very economical plastic LCD module. A new type of manufacturing process minimizes the gas permeability of the material. Until now, this was the critical factor in manufacturing plastic LCDs. The new

plastic modules are only half as thick as glass LCDs and four times lighter. Their flexibility makes them almost unbreakable, which means that in the future, manufacturers of mobile phones or other compact mobile equipment can dispense with thick display frames. The first plastic LCDs will soon be available on the market at prices similar to those for glass modules.

Further information from:

**Daniel Reinhardt: Media Concept, Öffentlichkeitsarbeit
Fisher-Appelt GmbH (GPRA), Bornkampsweg 2,
D-22761 Hamburg, Germany
email: dr@media-concept.de
fax: +49-40-899-699-30**

The Otto Lehman Foundation was established in 1997 by Professors Mlynski and Knoll from the University of Karlsruhe, Germany. The mission of the foundation is to promote scientific contributions from the rising generation of scientists in the field of liquid crystals. The prize can be given for outstanding habilitations, doctoral theses and graduate work in fields of liquid crystal science making a significant contribution to the application of liquid crystals.

The motivation for the establishment of the Otto Lehmann Foundation is based on four facts.

1. Otto Lehman was one of the most outstanding scientists of the University of Karlsruhe, Germany. He has done the basic research on liquid crystal materials. He held the chair of Physics at the University of Karlsruhe between 1889 and 1922, the year of his death.
2. The Institute for Theoretical Electronics and Measurement Technologies at the University of Karlsruhe have performed for more than 25 years basic research in the field of liquid crystal measurement and simulation under the leadership of Prof-

Otto Lehman Prize 1999

essor Mlynski. During this period a new method for the characterization of the angular contrast behaviour of LCDs was developed, and meanwhile has become a world standard. Professor Knoll, a former assistant of Professor Mlynski, established the Liquid Crystal Department at the Institute of Professor Mlynski.

3. Professor Knoll had the unique chance to get from Mrs Gertrude Lehmann, daughter-in-law of Otto Lehman, in 1979 the scientific inheritance of Otto Lehman allowing him to reconstruct the entire history of the discovery and the research of liquid crystals. Together with Professor Kelker he wrote on the history of liquid crystals and he feels a personal obligation to conserve the scientific inheritance of Otto Lehman.

4. The founders are concerned about the future research in the field of liquid crystals at the University of Karlsruhe and generally in Germany. Presently, many academic teachers in the field of liquid crystals are retiring and the chairs are not being reoccupied by liquid crystal scientists. Industrial progress in the field of liquid crystals can only go on if there is a good scientific infrastructure at the German universities. The Otto Lehman Foundation wants to put emphasis on the academic education in this field.

Further information is given on the Internet homepage of the University of Karlsruhe. The prize will be 10,000 DM, and may be divided in sections. Submitted works will be judged by an independent jury consisting of scientists from industry and universities.

Interested scientists may submit their scientific contributions to:

**Otto Lehman-Stiftung,
Attn Prof. Mlynski, Prof. Knoll,
University of Karlsruhe (TH),
Kaiserstr. 12,
D-76128 Karlsruhe,
Germany**

PROFESSOR PIER LUIGI NORDIO, UNIVERSITY OF PADOVA, ITALY

It is with great sadness and regret that the liquid crystal world received news of the untimely death of Professor Pier Luigi Nordio. He will be

greatly missed by his many friends around the world. An appreciation of his work will appear in a future issue of *Liquid Crystals Today*.