

## CALENDAR

Date	Subject	Venue	Contact
23 Jan 2002	Displays for Mobile Applications	Sharp Labs, Oxford	John Mansell and www.SID.org.uk
29-31 Jan 2002	International Display Manufacturing Conference & Exhibition	Seoul, Korea	IDMC Secretariat, PO Box 300, Cheongryang, Seoul, 130-650 Korea
13-14 Feb 2002	EID 2002	Birmingham	01822 614671
4-8 Mar 2002	Les Techniques d'Affichage et de Visualisation	Grenoble	Le Club Visu SID-France jverdez.clubvisu@wanadoo.fr
26-28 Mar 2002	Displays 2002	Paris Expo	www.birp.com/display
10-11 Apr 2002	SID UK AGM and two-day meeting details TBA	Knebworth House, Stevenage	John Mansell and www.SID.org
19-24 May 2002	SID International Symposium, Seminar & Exhibition	Boston, Massachusetts	Mark Goldfarb mgoldfarb@pcm411.com
30 June- 5 July 2002	19 <sup>th</sup> International Liquid Crystals Conference 2002	Edinburgh	Nicola Durkan 020 7440 3323 DurkanN@rsc.org
2-4 Sep 2002	The 7 <sup>th</sup> Asian Symposium on Information Display	Singapore	ASID'02 Secretariat +65 790 4237
8-12 Sep 2002	Advance Display Technologies	Crimea, Ukraine	V Sorokin Vsorokin@isp.kiev.ua
1-4 Oct 2002	The 22 <sup>nd</sup> International Display Research Conference	Nice, France	Sylvie Cohen scohen@birp.fr www.eurodisplay-2002.org

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SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION DISPLAY  
UK & IRELAND CHAPTER

## Number 34 NEWSLETTER November 2001

### SID SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

The Chapter are delighted to announce that Daphne Lamport has received a Special Recognition Award from SID. Special recognition awards are given to members of the technical and scientific community for distinguished and valued contributions to the information display field. There are a number of categories and Daphne's award was made for 'Outstanding service to the Society'.

Daphne was a member of Alf Woodhead's Group at Philips Research Laboratories, Redhill, where she worked on a wide range of vacuum devices including image intensifiers for night vision and x-ray image intensifiers.

She joined SID in the late 1970s when she became involved in a project to develop a flat CRT. She was responsible for the development of the novel folded-beam scanning technique applying her knowledge of modelling electron trajectories.

She became a member of the UK & Ireland Chapter at its inauguration in 1965 and joined the committee soon after that. She took over the roles of Meetings Registrar and Newsletter Editor and devoted a great deal of effort to these posts until she left the committee in 1998.



Barbara Needham presenting the award to Daphne Lamport

Daphne was unfortunately unable to travel to the SID symposium in San Jose in June to be presented with her award at the SID AGM. Barbara Needham collected the award on Daphne's behalf from Dr Andras Lakatos, the SID Awards Chair, so that she could present it to Daphne at a SID UK meeting.

She presented it to Daphne at the one-day meeting

which was held at CRL on 24 October. Daphne was also presented with a Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum wallisii*) by John Raines, Chapter Chair on behalf of the Chapter as an expression of their gratitude for her great contribution to the work of the committee and the UK Chapter.

### Displays for mobile applications

One-day meeting co-sponsored by  
SID, UK & Ireland Chapter  
and  
Sharp Laboratories of Europe  
at SLE, Oxford on 23 January 2001



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# A Word from the Chairman

John Raines

With another year consigned to history may I, on behalf of the committee, wish all members peace and happiness throughout the coming year. Our sincere thanks go to all who have supported the Chapter throughout the year, either by attending our technical meetings or more importantly, by presenting papers. It has been a particularly good year, with a wide range of high-quality presentations, and we aim to maintain this standard in the coming year – with your help of course.

On the topic of technical meetings, please note that the first one in 2002 will be held at Sharp Labs, Oxford on the 23 January. Full details are elsewhere in this newsletter, but book early as meetings at Sharp are always popular and there will be a limit on the number of people who can be admitted due to the size of the conference room. We are indebted to Sharp for jointly sponsoring this meeting and to Grant Bourhill of Sharp for arranging the programme.

The EID exhibition will be held on 13/14 February 2002 at the NEC Birmingham and will be organised entirely by Trident Exhibitions Ltd. Due to some contractual problems between SID and Trident there will be no parallel EID conference. In its place, we are to expand the AGM technical meeting to two days and because it proved to be so popular in 2001, the event will be held again at the Knebworth House Tithe Barns conference centre. The dates will be 10 and 11 April.

Some members have contacted me slightly confused by the imminent publication of a new 'SID' magazine on displays. By the time you read this you should have received your first copy of 'Displays Europe'. The magazine is published by the Institute of Physics publishing arm, but published in association with SID, it is however, entirely an IoP magazine. I hope you enjoyed reading the first issue as much as I did.

Another event I have been specifically requested to mention is the annual SID International Symposium, Seminar and Exhibition to be held in Boston, Massachusetts over the period 19 to 24 May 2002. Let's hope that life in the USA will be somewhat more settled by that time. Who could have believed only a few months ago what was in store for America on 11 September and the level of consequential strife in Afghanistan? The fall-out has severely affected all areas of business and could not have come at a worse time for the electronics sector, following on for example, a dire period for telecoms. So how have displays fared against this somewhat dismal background?

On the applications side I never cease to be amazed by poor decisions made by, I guess, people who have minimal knowledge of display technologies.

A typical example is the installation of new departure/arrivals displays at some of the main London rail stations. I wonder at what managerial level in Railtrack, someone was advised to invest large sums of money on replacing the old, but easily seen mechanical displays with L.C. flat panels. On the old displays white on black worked well, was highly visible, and could be seen from most parts of a station forecourt. Now, for example, at Waterloo, passengers have to peer up and try and read information in multiple colours on relatively small screens, which are virtually impossible to see on a bright summer's day. Is this really progress?

By comparison, at Victoria station a huge super-bright display based on LEDs is very effective, but used for advertisements rather than departure and arrival times.

Another topical example for the misguided use of electronic displays is in the current crop of SLR type digital cameras. Many are now fitted with an electronic viewfinder to reduce the optical complexity, hence size and weight. First impressions are fine, but try tracking a moving object and you soon find that the frame rate on the viewfinder is so slow that all you see is a very poor jerky image. Pity the unwary consumer!

In other areas of the domestic consumer front things are looking better. Good quality 15-inch L.C. computer monitors are available for about £200 and we are witnessing the emergence of flat-panel television sets. Albeit at a price premium, which no doubt will eventually plummet in the manner that CRT based monitors have, over the past year.

I have a colour display on the dashboard of my car as part of a satellite navigation system. I surprised myself when I suddenly realised how I have taken the good performance of the display for granted, no worries about contrast, brightness, or angles of view. And viewable in sunlight!

These consumer items indicate how the time to market from research and development is diminishing rapidly. During a recent turnout of old technical literature, I came across a press article of an SID meeting held in London in January 1990. I, along with other SID members had been on a visit to Japan, and we were discussing technical progress there in the light of current activities in the UK electronics sector. One point we stressed was the potential added value, which we forecast, would come from the manufacture of flat panel displays, combined with a few silicon integrated circuits to form complete systems. It has all happened within a space of ten years or so.

As always, your views on Chapter activities are welcome, send me your thoughts by e-mail. Or contact any committee member

# CUPID Microdisplay Conference in Edinburgh

A SID sponsored microdisplay conference was held at the University of Edinburgh on 14 and 15 September, organised by CUPID, the Combined University Partnership with Displays in Industry.

Initially formed in 1999, CUPID was described by Chris Gracie of the Scottish Optoelectronics Association and Professor Allan Gillespie of the Epicentre, University of Abertay Dundee, as a consortium of research and industrial partners, the main aim of which is to further the growth of the UK displays industry. A recent contribution to that aim, by CUPID partners, is the establishment of the Masters Training Program in Display Technology, led by Dundee University.



*Presentation of the Alfred Woodhead Dr Tim Wilkinson Best Paper Award to Dr Tim Wilkinson by Prof Allan Gillespie at the CUPID meeting*

This well-attended event brought together a broad spectrum of the international displays community for an active two days of presentations and discussion. Some excellent contributions on topics ranging from market and technology developments, to applications and human factors, were given by leading academic and industrial figures.

Unfortunately, owing to the devastating events in the USA earlier the same week, a number of American speakers were unable to attend. However, the conference did still manage to field one US speaker, Paul Boynton of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Maryland who had travelled to the UK prior to 11 September. Chris Williams of Logystyx bravely stepped into the breach at the eleventh hour, giving two presentations on behalf of Microdisplay Report, Connecticut, thus ensuring that the program retained its all important content on market conditions and developments.

There were pleasing updates on the successful progress of a number of British manufacturing and technology flag wavers, including MicroVue who reported on their moves towards volume production of a 1280 x 1024

pixel FLCoS device at their plant in Dalgety Bay. Ian Underwood, of Micro Emissive Displays gave a comprehensive presentation on the current status of OLED on silicon technology, highlighting recent advances in the development of a 320 x 240 pixel colour device. The conclusion of a licensing agreement between MED and Cambridge Display Technology was also announced, whilst the current progress of CDT's light-emitting polymer work was later described

by Dr Euan Smith.

An illuminating mobile telecoms perspective, on the potential for microdisplays in the portable terminal market place, was given by Tapani Levola of Nokia Finland. A positively passionate presentation on the use of VLSI based, next-generation microdisplays in telecoms applications, was also given by Dr. Tim Wilkinson of Cambridge University Engineering Department. Tim was later presented with the SID UK & Ireland Chapter Alfred Woodhead Best Paper Award, for his similarly enthusiastic address at the one-day meeting which took place after the AGM at Knebworth in May 2001.

In a week of turbulent world events, the conference which may otherwise have been derailed, proved highly successful, enabling some productive networking by attendees and speakers, in addition to a programme of high-quality papers and presentations.

## QinetiQ

**DERA**, the Defence Evaluation Research Agency has recently become **QinetiQ**. Hal Kruth has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the newly-formed subsidiary, QinetiQ Ventures Ltd, which will manage the QinetiQ Venture Fund. The Fund will invest in new businesses which are being set up by QinetiQ to commercialise its technology-based intellectual assets and to exploit the knowledge and capabilities of its people.

The interests of QinetiQ are wide ranging and varied and one which caught the editor's eye concerned beetles.

A paper in a recent issue of *Nature* describes how researchers from QinetiQ and the University of Oxford have been studying a method of collecting drinking water used by beetles in the Namibian Desert.

Rainfall is almost unheard of in the Namibian Desert and the beetles survive by extracting water from fog. The beetles have a unique back, which enables fog to settle and form water droplets.

Researchers have discovered that the beetle's back can be mimicked enabling water to be collected from fog. This has many applications ranging from collecting drinking water in arid areas of the world to improving the efficiency of air conditioning systems.