FROM THE EDITOR

Let There Be Light

Certain materials can absorb energy from such sources as X-rays, ultraviolet light, or electrons, then re-emit the energy as visible light. These luminescent materials, called "phosphors," are ubiquitous. Phosphors light up fluorescent light bulbs, television screens, computer screens, and signs and displays everywhere we look. These are the materials of interest to the Luminescence and Display Materials Division, featured in this issue.

A decade ago, I would have never guessed that I would be working on research pertaining to phosphors and display technology. But nearly eight years ago, I had the good fortune to meet Esther Sluzky at an ECS Local Section meeting at which I was the speaker. She invited me to her development lab at Hughes Aircraft Company where I saw for the first time phosphors and high-resolution helmet-mounted CRTs being made. This was a beginning of our long collaboration that opened a whole new area of technology for me, rich in research in materials science and engineering. I was able to interest other professors on campus from a variety of backgrounds in pursuing research in this area. Another colleague and I developed a graduate course on Display Technologies four years ago, focusing on materials issues. Our students seem to enjoy working on materials that they can make glow; the lights in the lab are not turned off for napping, but to see the light-emitting phosphors better. More recently, the San Diego-Tijuana region has become a major center for CRT manufacturing, with Sony in particular employing many of our graduating students. Where would information and multimedia technologies be without displays?

Speaking of information technology, have you looked at the ECS Web site on your computer display lately? What's new is that all of ***Interface*** is now being published online in PDF format. You will need the Adobe Acrobat Reader to view PDF files; it's free and easy to download from Adobe: http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/main.html. Check it out at: http://www.electrochem.org/interface.html.

The developments made in flat panel displays, high-definition TV, energy-saving lighting, and medical and analytical diagnostic tools have a direct impact on our lives with new products never before thought possible. I surely would never make my ***Interface*** deadlines without my notebook computer. I look forward to the improvements in luminescent and display materials that will improve the color, brightness, and performance/cost of my computer which I can't seem to live without.

Jan B. Talbot

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Editor

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Tel (609) 737-1902
Fax (609) 737-2743
E-mail: publications@electrochem.org
ECS Home Page: http://www.electrochem.org

Editor: Jan B. Talbot
e-mail: jtalbot@ucsd.edu

Contributing Editor: Vicki Edwards

Managing Editor: Mary E. Yess
Production Manager: Ellen S. Popkin

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