



Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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Foreword

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Foreword

This volume presents the Proceedings of the 8th European Conference on Liquid Crystals (ECLC 2005) held in Sesto (Italy) from February 27th to March 4th, 2005.

The meeting, organised by the Italian Liquid Crystal Society, continued the biennial tradition of European Conferences on Liquid Crystals, started in 1991 in Courmayeur, which were the result of a merger between the LC Conferences of the Countries of Eastern Europe with the Winter LC Conferences and Workshops. After Courmayeur (Italy) the previous ECLC meetings were held in: Flims, Switzerland (1993), Bovec, Slovenia (1995), Zakopane, Poland (1997), Crete, Greece (1999), Halle, Germany (2001), Jaca, Spain (2003).

ECLC 2005, organised by the Italian Liquid Crystal Society, came back to the tradition of a winter conference and was held on the Alps in a beautiful sky resort area. The conference was attended by 181 scientists coming from all of Europe and some coming from Brasil, Corea, Mexico and United States.

The discussion sessions addressed all the major areas of fundamental and technological research of Liquid Crystals. The most recent developments in the preparation of new molecules and of novel phases of increasing complexity, their applications and the new techniques and developments for industrial needs were considered. In addition, links with other current leading themes such as Nanotechnology and Biotechnology were emphasized. The programme included 3 plenary and 14 invited lectures as well as 42 oral and 127 poster contributions in the following main subject areas: Nanostructured systems, Self assembly and patterning; Biological systems; Optical processing and storage; Display and imaging; Molecular design, Theory and simulations; Synthesis of new LC materials and polymeric and elastomeric LC.

Some of the original contributions were submitted for the Proceedings and refereed according to the standard procedure of this Journal.

The successful organization of ECLC 2005 was only possible thanks to the help of many people and we wish to mention Ms. B. Simoni and Mr. F. Martelli (INFN Bologna), Dr. S. Orlandi, Dr. G. Tiberio, Dr. I. Vecchi, (University of Bologna), Dr. A. Marino (University of Naples), and the people of the Tourist Office of Sesto, in particular Ms. S. Pfeifhofer and Dr. G. Leitgeb.

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