E-MRS Presents 20th Anniversary Gold Medal to Richard Friend

The European Materials Research Society (E-MRS) awarded the 20th Anniversary Gold Medal to Richard Friend of the University of Cambridge "in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the development of polymer-based electronics, particularly polymer light-emitting diodes, thin-film field-effect transistors, photovoltaic diodes, and directly printed polymer transistor circuits." The medal is the highest honor of E-MRS and is being awarded for the first time on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the society. As the first recipient of the medal, Friend starts a distinguished roll of honor. The Awards Ceremony took place in Strasbourg, France, on June 11 during the plenary session of the E-MRS Spring Meeting, where Friend also presented a paper on "Plastic Electronics."

Richard Friend (left) of the University of Cambridge receives the European Materials Research Society's (E-MRS) 20th Anniversary Gold Medal, presented by then E-MRS president Giovanni Marletta.

Friend is Cavendish Professor at the University of Cambridge with a world-renowned reputation for his research into the physics and engineering of semiconductor devices made with carbon-based semiconductors. In the 1980s, he focused on whether it was possible to make structures of organic polymers, similar to what was done with inorganic semiconductors such as silicon. He demonstrated that semiconductor polymers can be processed to form high-performing semiconductor devices such as thin-film field-effect transistors (1988) and polymer light-emitting diodes (1990). Friend's research led to developing and producing flat-screen displays and is expected to lead to screens that can be rolled up and transported. As a result of his expertise, Friend co-founded two companies, Cambridge Display Technology Ltd. and Plastic Logic, to bring to market the first products using this latest technology. He also pioneered the study of organic photovoltaic and photoconductive diodes (1995) as well as directly printed polymer transistor circuits (2000).

Friend has more than 20 patents and over 600 publications, about 200 of them on conducting polymers. He is also one of the principal investigators in the new Cambridge-based Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration (IRC) on Nanotechnology.

The medal will be awarded not more frequently than every fifth year for outstanding scientific or industrial achievement in advanced materials science without regard to nationality, country of residence, or membership in E-MRS.

HERMAN G. GRIMMEISS
President, E-MRS

PAUL SIFFERT
E-MRS General Secretary

E-MRS Holds Grand Opening of New Offices During Its 20th Anniversary

The European Materials Research Society (E-MRS) celebrated its 20th anniversary during the 2003 E-MRS Spring Meeting in June. During this occasion, the society also opened its new offices in Strasbourg, France. Merrilea J. Mayo, president of the Materials Research Society, joined then E-MRS president Giovanni Marletta and E-MRS General Secretary Paul Siffert in the ceremonies.

Merrilea J. Mayo (left), president of the Materials Research Society, presents a commemorative plaque to E-MRS General Secretary Paul Siffert (right) and to then E-MRS president Giovanni Marletta (not shown), congratulating E-MRS on the Society's 20th anniversary.

MRS President Merrilea J. Mayo cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the new offices of E-MRS.

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(Left to the right) Paul Siffert, E-MRS General Secretary, Ryszard Ciach, president of the Polish Foundation for the Development of Materials Sciences, and Walter Heywang, former director of Siemens Central Research Laboratories and recipient of the 2003 Czochralski award, take questions during the plenary session at the E-MRS Fall Meeting in Warsaw.

Walter Heywang Receives Czochralski Award and Gold Medal

During the plenary session of the 2003 European Materials Research Society Fall Meeting, held at the University of Technology in Warsaw, Walter Heywang received the Czochralski award and gold medal for his lifetime achievements. Heywang, former director of Siemens Central Research Laboratories in Munich, has been actively involved throughout his career in the development of semiconductors, especially silicon and the III–V group, starting in 1950. The Siemens team was the first to demonstrate the possibility of using silicon instead of germanium in junction manufacturing and invented the technology to prepare high-purity silicon, known worldwide as the "Siemens process."

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