

# IEEE. region8news

## IEEE. region8news

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### Milestone celebrates the invention of TFT flat panel displays at Dundee University

EVERY time you use a smartphone, glance at your smart watch, fire up a computer, watch TV or endure a Power-Point presentation, you experience a little bit of Dundee (UK and Ireland Section). The flat panel technology we use in modern devices wasn't invented by mega-corporates in Japan or Silicon Valley but by a pair of academics in Scotland's fourth-largest city.

Everything we do should bring people together

Region 8 Director



Region 8's latest History Milestone bronze plaque was dedicated on 5 April to celebrate their invention – amorphous silicon thin film field-effect transistor switches for liquid crystal displays (better known as TFT-LCD) – which has stood the test of time at 40 years and counting.

Even locals seem blissfully unaware of the achievements of Walter Spear and Peter LeComber at the University of Dundee during the 1970s and 1980s. The IEEE Milestone should go some way to rectifying this unfortunate lack of public appreciation of their work.

Physics lecturer Spear and PhD research student LeComber initially crossed paths at the University of Leicester but

joined forces on the teaching staff in Dundee at the end of the 1960s. What they achieved over the following decade was, in the words of Iain Stewart, the University's current dean of Science and Engineering, "absolutely astounding".

Their lab experiments with amorphous silicon led them to a realisation that they could use it to create very simple transistors that could work as switches applied across a thin film. Encouraged by British tech legend Cyril Hilsum, then working with the UK's Ministry of Defence, Spear and LeComber developed TFT for use as a method of controlling a flat panel liquid crystal display.

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Africa Council proposal wins R8 support while meeting attendees get closer at poster sessions



REG-8 says "Turn to page 6"

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It's election time: R8 Director, IEEE President

## IEEE. region8news

March 2018

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### Sydney sparks Congress



Dundee: 'Deliver' Sections' Congress in AU's swing



### AI... and loads of kids: Open Day in London



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### Approval in Tunis

s and listed Algeria, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, South Tunisia and Zambia as founding members of the Council. She and Section chairs who had the petition for the Council in commitment and also her Jeto Vincent Kabunga, chair on 8's ad-hoc Committee on ss in Africa, Kathleen Weeks IEEE staff who assisted with antion. series of highly informative ations on Section activities ilenges were delivered by ion and Sub-Section chairs re attending the meeting.

### What for IEEE

TO mark IEEE's membership, IEEE every October. I that the newly for Engineers (AIEE) for its first technic AIEE merged with adopting the name This year's IEEE theme, however

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2016



2  
issues

2017



1  
issue

Quarterly cycle:  
back on track

2018



4  
issues

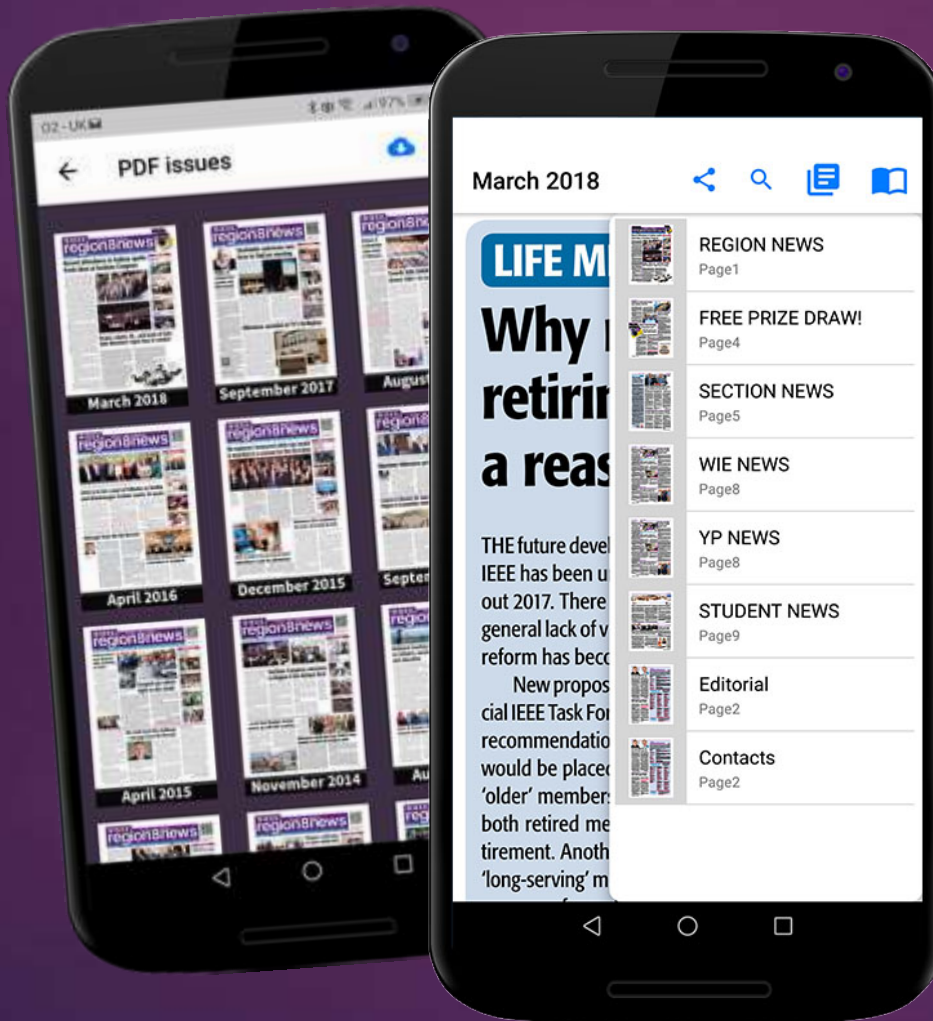


Want to share a story about your  
Section, AG, chapter, conference etc?

[r8news@ieee.org](mailto:r8news@ieee.org)

(but... note the long lead-in times)

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To come in  
2019...

- smartphone app
- tablet app
- text-searchable archive
- Region 8 live feeds
- Built-in media support (video, video)