



Dr. George Heilmeyer

1936-

Dr. George Heilmeyer was a pioneering contributor to the development of the liquid crystal display.

Heilmeyer's investigations of the optical properties of liquid crystals began early in his career, while he was working as an engineer at RCA's David Sarnoff Research Center. In 1964, he discovered several new electro-optic effects in liquid crystals, which made electronic control of light reflections possible for the first time. This led to the development of the first liquid crystal displays (LCDs) and launched a global industry that now produces millions of LCDs annually for devices that incorporate flat panel displays.

After leaving RCA, Heilmeyer held several high-level government appointments, including White House Fellow, Assistant Director of Defense Research and Engineering, and Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. He returned to industry and served in positions such as Chief Technical Officer of Texas Instruments (TI) and Chief Executive Officer of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the Defense Science Board.

Heilmeyer is the recipient of numerous awards including the David Sarnoff Award and Medal of Honor from the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the Edwin H. Land Medal from the Optical Society of America, the Charles Stark Draper Prize from the National Academy of Engineering, and the National Medal of Science.