



1981 PAC Winner

Sir Alastair Pilkington F.R.S.

Sir Alastair Pilkington's development in 1952 of the float process for the manufacture of flat glass has been universally recognized as one of the major technological achievements of the post-war period. It has transformed a major capital industry on a worldwide basis.

Sir Alastair subsequently headed the team that spent seven years turning the idea into a manufacturing reality so that, through licensing arrangements, the process is now utilized by some thirty manufacturers in eighteen countries and has replaced the sheet and plate glass process in the manufacture of most flat glass.

The recently retired chairman of Pilkington Brothers Ltd. started his career with the company in 1947, gaining early experience in both the Sheet and Plate Glass Works. From the mid-1950's onward he was continually given greater responsibilities including head of production, director of research and development, deputy Chairman of the Boards of the Flat Glass and Fiber Glass divisions, deputy Chairman of the Corporate Board and Chairman in 1973, retiring from Pilkington in 1980. He now serves as a non-executive Director.

Sir Alastair, named a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1969 and knighted in 1970, has received a number of honors for his inventions and development of the float glass process.