

AU Optronics executive guilty in LCD price-fixing case

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Customers check LCD television sets made at a Tokyo electronics shop on November 1, 2012. A US jury found a former senior manager at Taiwan-based AU Optronics Corp. guilty of taking part in a global scheme to rig prices of liquid crystal display screens.

A US jury on Tuesday found a former senior manager at Taiwan-based AU Optronics Corp. guilty of taking part in a global scheme to rig prices of liquid crystal display screens.

Shiu Lung Leung faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$1 million fine for his crime, according to the US Department of Justice.

Marketplace rivals fixed the prices of [LCD panels](#) during monthly meetings held secretly at hotel conference rooms, karaoke bars and tea rooms around Taiwan, according to prosecutors.

A trial in San Francisco ended in March with AUO executives Hsuan Bin Chen and Hui Hsiung convicted for their roles in a conspiracy between late 2001 and late 2006 to rig prices of [thin film transistor](#) LCD panels.

A judge fined the company \$500 million for taking part in what prosecutors called the "most serious price-fixing" case in US history.

Officials said that the fine matched the largest ever imposed on a company for violating US anti-trust laws.

A mistrial was declared in a portion of the proceedings involving Leung, and the verdict in his case was the outcome of a three-week retrial.

"This international price-fixing conspiracy impacted countless [American consumers](#) by raising the price of [computer monitors](#), notebooks and televisions containing LCD panels," said Deputy Assistant Attorney General Scott Hammond.

The global LCD market was valued at \$70 billion annually by the end of the alleged conspiracy, and companies that wound up paying inflated prices for screens included Apple, Dell and Hewlett Packard, according to prosecutors.

As a result of the investigation, eight companies have pleaded guilty or been convicted and have been sentenced to pay criminal fines totaling

more than \$1.39 billion, according to the Department of Justice.

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