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Paper Logic teams with Cambridge University to develop flexible electronics

R&D programme aims to commercialise flexible OLED and LCD displays

By [Lee Bell](#)

Wed Jun 26 2013, 15:45



FLEXIBLE ELECTRONICS could become the norm sooner than you think, thanks to a partnership between Cambridge University and Plastic Logic, the firm behind the [Papertab flexible tablet that made headlines at CES](#) this year.

The "formal collaboration agreement" means Plastic Logic will join the university to start work on research and

development projects aimed at "revolutionising the commercial exploitation of graphene in flexible plastic electronics".

That will include developing graphene as a transparent, conductive layer for plastic backplanes in LCDs and OLEDs, the university said, as well as developing novel transistor structures with graphene-like materials as the active layer. This aims to improve the device performance presently possible on plastic, while retaining the flexibility of the devices.

So far, we know that the partnership will focus on the commercialising the manufacturing processes of using graphene for flexible electronics in areas such as flexible plastic sensors. However, we've contacted the parties to see if they can shed a little more light on what we can expect to see from them and when.

"The mission of our Centre is to investigate the science and technology of graphene, carbon allotropes, layered crystals and hybrid nanomaterials," Cambridge University Graphene Centre director, professor Andrea Ferrari said.

"This engineering innovation centre allows our partners to meet, and effectively establish joint industrial-academic activities to promote innovative and adventurous research with an emphasis on applications."

Both Plastic Logic and Cambridge University hope that the partnership will accelerate applications in flexible electronics, such as "large area distributed sensors".

Plastic Logic made a name for itself when it caused a stir at the CES show in Las Vegas earlier this year with its [flexible tablet that is as thin as a piece of paper](#).

Touting a fully interactive 10.7in plastic touchscreen display, the tablet is powered by a second generation Intel Core i5 processor and was developed by the firm along with Intel Labs and Queens University to replace the need for paper.

The interesting thing about the Papertab isn't just that it can bend and flex while in use like a magazine and is robust against drops, but it also doesn't work in the same conventional way as standard glass based display technology on the market today. Instead of having several apps or windows on a single display, users have ten or more interactive displays or "paper tabs", one for every app in use. μ

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