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# Russians Win Physics Nobel Prize for Graphene Material

By Naomi Kresge - Oct 5, 2010 4:42 PM GMT

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University of Manchester professor and Nobel Prize Winner Andre Geim said, "I didn't expect the Nobel Prize this year." Source: University of Manchester via Bloomberg

Two Russian-born scientists won the [Nobel Prize](#) in Physics for discovering graphene, a one-atom-thick "wonder material" that may transform electronics, allowing for speedier computers and folding touchscreens.

[Andre Geim](#), 51, now a Dutch citizen, and [Konstantin Novoselov](#), 36, both professors at the [University of Manchester](#) in the U.K., will share the 10 million-Swedish kronor (\$1.5 million) prize, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said today in Stockholm.

[Samsung Electronics Co.](#) and [IBM Corp.](#) are among the companies working with the material, the thinnest and strongest substance ever discovered. Nearly transparent yet dense, graphene conducts heat and electricity, giving it potential uses in light panels and computers, the academy said in a [statement](#).



University of Manchester professor Konstantin Novoselov, seen here, has won the Nobel Prize in Physics with fellow professor Andre Geim for their work on graphene. Source: University of Manchester via Bloomberg

In a "Friday afternoon experiment just for fun," Geim and Novoselov transcended what other physicists thought was possible by producing the first two-dimensional material, Andrea Ferrari, head of the nanomaterials and spectroscopy group at the University of Cambridge, said in a telephone interview.

"This material is simple, it is easy to make, and it has properties far surpassing most other materials," he said.

Geim and Novoselov used Scotch tape to obtain a layer of carbon just one atom thick from a piece of graphite, the substance found in pencils. Students still use the "Scotch tape method" to obtain tiny flakes of graphene for research projects, Ferrari said.

## Satellites and Cars

"I didn't expect the Nobel Prize this year," Geim said by telephone to a press conference in Stockholm. He said he planned to go back to work today. "I just try to muddle on as before."

Graphene was "hailed as a wonder material when the discovery was made," said Joseph Winters, a spokesman for the London-based [Institute of Physics](#). The material is ideal for uses in satellites and aircraft technology, he said.

Satellites, airplanes and cars could be made out of plastics mixed with graphene, the Nobel academy said.

Touchscreens are "a good candidate" to be the first consumer technology to use graphene, according to Ferrari. Samsung developed a process to mass-produce graphene in 30-inch

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