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Dr Andrea Ferrari receives a Marie Curie Award

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For the first time, the EU's three most prestigious science awards have been presented together – the science communication prizes, Marie Curie excellence awards and the Descartes research prizes – at an award ceremony in Brussels on 12 March.

Describing the winners as "the best Europe has to offer", science and research commissioner Janez Potocnik said the awards honoured excellence, openness and creativity.

The Department's Dr Andrea Ferrari has been awarded the Marie Curie Excellence Award for his research on carbon nanotechnology. During his Marie Curie-sponsored PhD here at the Department, he worked on ultra-thin carbon films, a critical part of the hard drive technology, at the heart of many consumer electronics. This was just the start of a successful career for the young researcher that combines fundamental multi-disciplinary science with a keen eye for application and innovation.

Established in 2003, the Marie Curie Excellence Awards recognise outstanding achievements by scientists that have reached a level of exceptional excellence in their field. Researchers of any nationality and in all fields of research are eligible provided they have benefited from one of the EU funded researcher career support schemes. These Marie Curie Actions aim to widen researchers' prospects and promote excellence in EU research. The Grand Jury is chaired by Professor Mary Osborn from the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry (Germany). Five winners, who each receive a EUR 50,000 prize, come from four different countries. Three of them currently work in a country other than their home country, with two others having returned home after a considerable time abroad.

For further information please contact Dr Ferrari: acf26@cam.ac.uk or visit the group's web page: <http://www-g.eng.cam.ac.uk/nms/>



Dr Andrea Ferrari (left) EU commissioner Janez Potocnik and the Slovenian Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Mojca Kucler Dolinar who presented the awards