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£12m boost for 'super material' research

Researchers at Cambridge University developing a 'super material' are to receive a £12 million cash boost.



Chancellor George Osborne

Chancellor George Osborne today announced the investment to commercialise graphene – one of the lightest, strongest and conductive materials known to man.

Its versatility potentially supports an unparalleled number of applications, including in electronics, energy generation and telecomm unications.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has identified the most promising research projects at Britain's universities which will benefit from investment, totalling £21.5 million.

Cambridge University is to receive a share for research into graphene flexible electronics and optoelectronics, which could include things like touch screens and other display devices.

Mr Osborne said: "The Government moved quickly and decisively to make sure this Nobel Prize-winning technology, invented in the UK, was also developed here.

"It's exactly what our commitment to science and a proactive industrial strategy is all about – and we beat off strong global competition.

"I am glad to announce investment that will help take it from the British laboratory to the British factory floor. This shows that even in tough times we are investing in science which is vital to helping the UK get ahead in the global race."

London's Imperial College will receive more than £4.5 million to investigate aero space applications of graphene, working with industrial partners including Airbus.

The other successful projects are based at Durham University, the University of Manchester, the University of Exeter and Royal Holloway.

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