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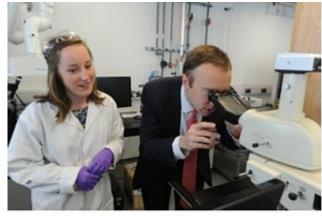
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'Brexit would be bad for science' warns Cambridge professor, as minister visits Graphene Centre

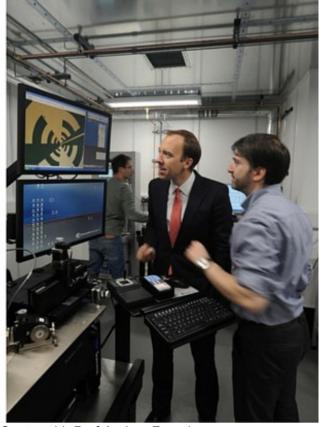
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By Adam Care

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Matt Hancock MP toured the Cambridge Graphene Centre with Prof Andrea Ferrari

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The director of a cutting-edge university laboratory has warned 'nothing good would come from a Brexit' for Cambridge science.

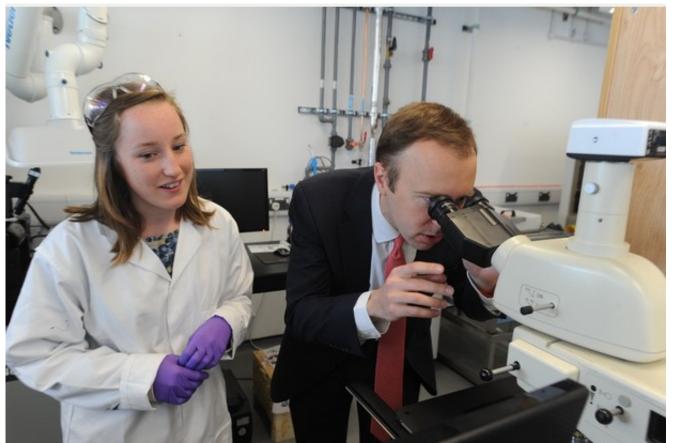
On Monday Professor Andrea Ferrari welcomed cabinet minister Matt Hancock to the Cambridge Graphene Centre, where he spoke of the benefits EU membership brings the city.

Keith Jones



Prof Ferrari (right) shows Matt Hancock MP round the Cambridge Graphene Centre on potential applications for graphene, which he said would be put at risk if Britain left the EU.

The centre, on JJ Thomson Avenue, receives significant funding from the European Research Council, with around £10 million of investment from Europe in the last four years.



Matt Hancock MP meets researchers at the centre tunuing from the European Research Centre times times. We are speaking about several million from the European Union in the past three to four years.

"I don't think anybody knows what happens if the referendum goes for Brexit, it will take quite a long period of time to figure out what is going on, but I cannot see how anything good is going to come from Britain leaving the EU.

"Cambridge gets a very large amount of money from the EU for science and technology, and for me there is only one answer; we can only lose out from going."

Prof Ferrari showed Mr Hancock around the ground floor of the three-storey centre, where he met scientists working on new uses for graphene, which was formally discovered by scientists in Manchester in 2004.



Matt Hancock MP meets researchers at the centre material with lots of interesting properties.

"It is the strongest material, most stretchable and able to conduct more electricity than any other material, and we have created a centre to try and bring these properties to some applications and benefit."

Lightweight but incredibly strong, graphene has already been used to develop new tennis rackets and bicycle tyres.



Matt Hancock MP meets researchers at the centre methods of high-speed data communication and to improve the performance of electrical batteries.

Mr Hancock, who is minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, as well as MP for West Suffolk, praised the centre's research for putting Cambridge "on the map as a centre of advanced manufacturing, supporting thousands of jobs."

According to the Government, over the EU's next seven-year funding cycle, Cambridge is likely to be in the top three cities for receiving research funding.



n was also a big within in the European Regional Development Fund, receiving just sny of £14m. Matt Hancock MP meets researchers at the centre from a €84m budget for the region.

Mr Hancock said: "Cambridge is host to hundreds of companies that take top science and turn it into commercial success with the jobs and prosperity that brings.

"Treasury analysis has highlighted the risk of a recession if we leave the EU, with 50,000 jobs lost in East Anglia.

"When you see this kind of collaboration and jobs put at risk by leaving, it is clear why we are safer, stronger and better off in the EU."

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