

BBC NEWS**CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

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Cambridge University opens £25m wonder material centre

A £25m centre to research ways of introducing the "wonder material" graphene to everyday life is to be created at the University of Cambridge.

The substance, which is derived from graphite, is stronger than diamond, more conductive than copper and more flexible than rubber.

The Cambridge Graphene Centre aims to open later this year to discover and develop applications for the material.

Scientists will study its strength and electrical properties.

Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, vice-chancellor of the University of Cambridge, said: "Graphene's potential is beyond doubt, but much more research is needed if we are to develop it to a point where it proves of benefit to society as a whole.

"The pioneering work of Cambridge engineers and scientists in fields such as carbon nanotechnology and flexible electronics, coupled with our record working with industry and launching spin-out firms based on our research, means that we are in a unique position to take graphene to that next level."

Professor Andrea Ferrari, who will be the centre's director, said: "We are targeting applications and manufacturing processes, and broadening research.

"The integration of these new materials could bring a new dimension to future technologies, creating faster, thinner, stronger, more flexible broadband devices."

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