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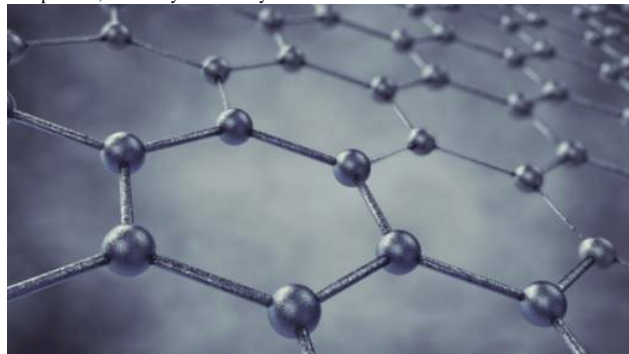
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## Cambridge Opens Graphene Research Centre

**The race is on at a new £25m facility to realise the commercial potential of the material regarded as the future of manufacturing.**

2:51pm UK, Thursday 24 January 2013



Business and academia are uniting to find potential uses for graphene

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A research centre to study how the "wonder material" graphene could be used in everyday life is to open at the University of Cambridge.

Graphene - a lightweight one-atom thick layer of graphite credited with remarkable strength - is regarded by experts as the future of manufacturing.

The Cambridge Graphene Centre will start work in February and a dedicated £25m facility is due to open at the end of the year.

The university said its plan was to take graphene to the next level, bridging the gap between academia and industry.

Research will focus on producing graphene on an industrial scale and taking it from a state of raw potential to a point where it can revolutionise flexible, wearable and transparent electronics.

University vice-chancellor Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz 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."



Nobel Prize winners Konstantin Novoselov and Andre Geim

It will be funded with £13m from industry and a £12m Government grant.

Firms supporting the centre include Nokia, Dyson, Plastic Logic, Philips and BAE Systems, which all hope graphene could be used in future production.

The centre will also be a shared research facility with state-of-the-art equipment, which any scientist researching graphene will have the opportunity to use.

Its first job will be finding ways of manufacturing and optimising graphene films, dispersions and inks so it can be used to good effect.

Professor Andrea Ferrari, who will be the centre's director, said: "We are targeting applications and manufacturing processes, and broadening research to other two-dimensional materials and hybrid systems.

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

Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov, from Manchester University, won the 2010 Nobel Prize in Physics for isolating graphene and measuring some of its astounding properties.

The Government recently announced it would invest £21.5m in realising the material's commercial potential.

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