Supermetal research centre unveiled

Scientists at Cambridge University have unveiled a new multi-million pound research centre dedicated to the world's thinnest metal.

Experts will use the £12 million facility to study graphene – a crystal made from just one atom's thickness of graphite. It is 300 times stronger than steel.

The Cambridge Graphene Centre was launched yesterday at the university, where scientists hope to use it to produce super-fast internet connections and longer-lasting batteries.

Prof Andrea Ferrari, who will be its director, said: “We are now in the second phase of graphene research.

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

The facility is set to open on February 1.