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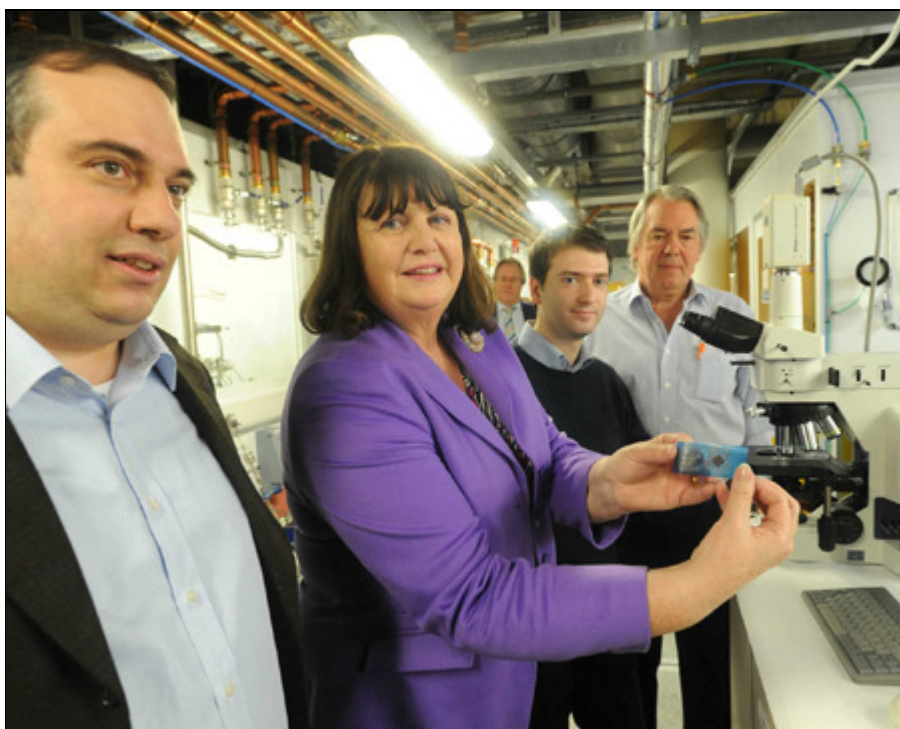
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10:25 Wednesday 30 January 2013

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VIP visitor views wonder material one atom thick



Maire Geoghegan-Quinn with, from left, Prof Andrea Ferrari, Antonia Lombardo and Prof Bill Milne

How to make a laser and a flexible piano from a one atom thick wonder material has been demonstrated in Cambridge.

Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, European commissioner for research, innovation and science, saw the demonstrations using graphene, which is made from carbon atoms, at Cambridge University's West Cambridge

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site yesterday.

Andrea Ferrari, professor of nanotechnology and director of the new Cambridge Graphene Centre dedicated to researching the material, said: "Graphene is new so it has huge potential. At the moment, we need to see if this potential will translate into reality.

"It's a material that can be used for a variety of different things.

"That's why it's called a platform material, it's a platform which every other technology can stand on."

The European Commission has announced a €1 billion project for research into graphene and Cambridge University will be a beneficiary.

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