Graphene infused space industry a discussion about graphene

NASA Commercial Space Lecture Series





Our agenda today



Debbie Nelson The Nixene Journal

Rob Whieldon Introduction to graphene and Powder applications

Adrian Nixon State of the art sheet graphene manufacturing technology

Interactive session: Ask anything you like



Rob Whieldon Adrian Nixon Debbie Nelson

American Graphene Summit Washington D.C. 2019

Who we are



Debbie Nelson

Debbie has over two decades experience in both face-forward and online networking. She is active with ongoing NASA Social activities, and enjoyed covering the Orion capsule water test and Apollo 50th anniversary events at Marshall Space Center. Debbie serves as Contributing Editor and Project manager for Nixene Publishing and manages the US office.



Rob Whieldon

Rob Whieldon is Operations Director for Nixene Publishing having spent over 20 years supporting businesses in the SME community in the UK. He was the Executive Director of the prestigious Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses programme in Yorkshire and Humber and is the former Director of Small Business Programmes at Leeds University Business School. He is a Gold Award winner from the UK Government Small Business Charter initiative and a holder of the EFMD (European Framework for Management **Development) Excellence in Practice** Award. More recently he was a judge for the worlds first Graphene Hackathon and tutors PhD students on commercialisation at the NowNano Centre for Doctoral Training at the University of Manchester



Adrian Nixon

Adrian began his career as a scientist and is a Chartered Chemist and Member of the Royal Society of Chemistry. He has over 20 years experience in industry working at Allied Colloids plc, an international chemicals company (now part of BASF). Adrian is the CEO and Editor in Chief of Nixene Publishing, which he established in the UK in 2017. Adrian is a board member of the International Space Elevator Consortium (ISEC)

The Nixene Journal is dedicated to graphene and 2D materials

We operate a subscription model and do not take advertising This means we have a completely independent view of this rapidly emerging field Each issue explains the technology and commercial activity taking place



Since 2017, each month we report developments in the world of graphene and 2D materials with the Nixene Journal[™] We also create special editions



We are based at the home of graphene and in the USA



Nixene Publishing is an affiliate partner at the GEIC

Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre (GEIC) Manchester, UK

A world-class, multi-million pound centre for industry-led development in graphene applications in partnership with academics.

The GEIC specialises in the rapid development and scale up of graphene and other 2D materials applications



Two short presentations follow, summarising:

- Graphene and 2D materials by Rob Whieldon
- Large scale sheet graphene by Adrian Nixon



Graphene and 2D materials technology and applications



Carbon: Dimensions



Examples of other two dimensional (2D) materials: The 'Graphenes' landscape

There are thousands of potential 2D materials [1]

Examples:

Hexagonal Boron Nitride (hBN) Molybdenum Disulphide (MoS₂) Molybdenum Diselenide (MoSe₂) Tungsten Disulphide (WS₂) Indium selenide: Side view



These materials can be used on their own or layered with one another, or graphene, like a club sandwich

These are called Van der Waals heterostructures and they have the potential to create 'designer' materials with new properties





Nobel Prize in Physics 2010: Graphene





2010 Andre Geim & Konstantin Novoselov Win Nobel Prize For preparing and characterising graphene



Prior to 2004

Graphene and other 2D materials were considered impossible to exist 2004 Graphene isolated as world's first 2D material at the University of Manchester, UK

Graphene is a Frontier Material

200 times stronger than steel



Highest melting point of any material in a vacuum



World's best conductor of electricity



Very stable material Non-toxic



Flexible and

transparent



Source: https://www.nobelprize.org/uploads/2018/06/advanced-physicsprize2010.pdf

100 times more tear resistant than steel





World's best conductor of heat



World's most fatigue resistant material

World's most impermeable material



Graphene: The hype



Graphene Powder and Sheet / Film

Two types of graphene manufacturing



Graphene currently manufactured as powders

Commercial applications starting to evolve



Sheet or Film graphene is a far higher value market Defect free sheet graphene is the ideal graphene film and is called Single Crystal Graphene



Graphene Powder



Graphene powders can be made from graphite





Sri Lankan flake graphite. Image credit: Adrian Nixon



1 Layer Graphene

3 to 10 Layers Few layer Graphene

Graphene is to graphite as a playing card is to a pack of cards





Source: Tour. J, et al. (2020) Gram-scale bottom-up flash graphene synthesis https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-1938-0

Graphene Powder Applications: Examples



Sustainable graphene-rubber polymer composites Graphene recycling waste car and truck tyres





SpaceMat[™] Enables tyre recycling Making rubber mats that do not disintegrate like normal recycled rubber

SPACEBLUE

Sustainable Home Furnishing - Graphene & More





Graphene-Concrete composites





- [1] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0950061818316088
- [2] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0950061818316088

Image credit: https://www.theyucatantimes.com/2020/02/the-siglo-xxi-yucatan-convention-center-enters-mexicos-top-ten/



3D printing Martian and Lunar regolith

Researchers at Northwestern University created Robust and Elastic Lunar and Martian Structures from 3D-Printed Regolith Inks

The inks were made from a graphene-elastomer composite that bonded the regolith in the 3D printing process. The graphene enhances the strength and elasticity of the 3D printed material

The elastomer can be synthesized from monomeric components, such as poly-lactic acid and polyglycolic acid, isolated from biological sources such as compost and human urine





This graphic is copyright free

Source: https://www.nature.com/articles/srep44931

Image credit: Pixabay

Graphene enhanced propellant



Purdue University have developed a graphene foam.

They developed methods of making and using compositions with solid fuel loaded on highly conductive, highly porous graphene foams for enhanced burn rates for the loaded solid fuel.

The graphene foam structures are:

- High temperature thermally stable,
- Super lightweight
- Reusable





Source: <u>https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2019/Q2/new-hybrid-energy-</u> method-could-fuel-the-future-of-rockets,-spacecraft-for-exploration.html

Image credit: Unsplash

Screen printed graphene sensors at the graphene hackathon





Image credit: Adrian Nixon

Orbex launch vehicle made with graphene polymer composites



Orbex is a UK-based private, lowcost orbital launch services company. Due to commence operations in 2022

Orbex prime is a two-stage rocket designed to carry up to 150 kilograms of payload, contained within a 1.3-metre fairing, into a sun synchronous orbit.

Orbex prime is built with 3Dprinted engines and a carbon fibre and graphene body





NASA Holey Graphene



NASA Langley have invented a new technique that can create holes in graphene sheet with precision



This could be used to make size selective membranes for gas / liquid separation



https://www.nasa.gov/langley/business/feature/nasa-langley-s-technology-further-enhances-graphene-functions

Graphene composites in Ford vehicles – Acoustic damping Quieter, more refined cars = competitive advantage

From 2019 all Ford Mustang and F-150 models contained graphene enhanced components This is now extended across the whole range





Over 5 million graphene enhanced automobiles manufactured



[1] https://media.ford.com/content/fordmedia/feu/en/news/2018/10/09/ford-innovates-with-miracle-material-powerful-graphene-for-vehicle-parts.html

Sheet Graphene



Large scale sheet graphene





Nixene Clarity from ComplexityTM Publishing

This graphic is copyright free

Image Credit: Adrian Nixon

Making graphene from the 'bottom up' by Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD)



Understanding Polycrystalline and Single Crystal Graphene



The grain boundaries introduce vacancies and defects that make graphene polycrystalline This is close to the current state of the art of graphene film manufacturing



Single Crystal Graphene continuous repeating pattern with no defects



This is the ultimate material 200 times stronger than steel and best material for electronics and many other applications. It will take time and resources to perfect and be a longer term product Is it even possible to make single crystal graphene?

Single crystal means a single molecule at macro-scale

Single crystal means a single two dimensional molecule at scales of centimetres, metres and kilometres



Single Crystal Graphene has already been made in the lab in 2017 and 2018

A team at Peking University started by annealing a copper shape from the point to create a single crystal of metal with no grain boundaries

Then they arranged the growing conditions to form hexagon domains These domains aligned and joined up rather than form discontinuities

> Oak Ridge National Laboratory has also shown that single crystal graphene can be made in the lab [2]

> > Vixene_{Publishing}

This graphic is copyright free

This produced a sheet of continuous graphene that contained 99% ultra highly orientated grains forming a single crystal 50mm x 500mm [1]

Sources: X. Xu et al. (2017) Ultrafast epitaxial growth of metre-sized single-crystal graphene on industrial Cu foil, Science Bulletin 62. 1074-1080 [1] https://arxiv.org/abs/1707.02512

[2] https://www.ornl.gov/news/method-grow-large-single-crystal-graphene-could-advance-scalable-2d-materials



(a single molecule)

metre long – in China [1]



Is it possible to make graphene at industrial scale and speeds?

Economic manufacture will require metres per second speeds

Graphene is only 17 years old, how fast could it be made right now?

Note: The following examples are continuous industrial processes aimed at electronics markets and other commercial applications



Europe: Continuous industrial manufacture of graphene



Aixtron is a Graphene Flagship partner based in Germany. It makes a graphene production machine called the Neutron

This is a roll to roll (R2R) process

Vertical tube furnace making polycrystalline graphene for consumer electronics, sensors and photonic applications.

Speed not disclosed

Production capacity: 20,000 square metres of graphene per year

The graphene is made on metal foil and a separation process yet to be developed

Aixtron Neutron at the Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre (GEIC) in Manchester, UK Image credit: Rob Whieldon



https://phys.org/news/2019-06-cost-effective-large-scale-graphene-aixtron.html

USA: Continuous industrial manufacture of graphene



They have had some success transferring the graphene from the copper foil on to Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) film.

1 – 10 layer graphene has been made at square centimetre scale



Korea: Continuous industrial manufacture of graphene

Large Area & High Speed 400 mm R2R System for Mass Production

	Specifications		This is a roll to roll (R2R) process
	□ Configuration : 33	00(H) x 2000(D) x 2000(W)	Vertical tube furnace making polycrystalline graphene for electronics
	□ Pressure : ~ 10 ⁻³ Torr		
	□ Temperature : Ma	ax. 1,100 $^\circ \mathrm{C}~(\pm$ 1 $^\circ \mathrm{Deviations})$	This is capable of making graphene by the kilometre
\subseteq	Roll Speed : ~ 6	60m/hr	It is a high speed process 1m / minute
	□ Roll Width : 40	0 mm width (double roll)	
			However, the graphene is stuck on the copper foil and a separation process yet to be developed

LG in Korea announced they have developed

a continuous graphene production line

Image credit: LG Electronics

LG are making graphene for electronics markets

This announcement shows that graphene can be made at high speed by a continuous process

Graphene is not just an advanced material, it is a frontier material. This is disruptive technology

Graphite Multi-layered graphene nanoplates



Nixene® : Multi-layered sheet graphene



Multilayer graphene exists in nature as graphite The bulk material is made of jumbled stacks of nanoplates Multilayer sheet single crystal graphene is an entirely new material that is not found in nature The bulk material is made of highly coherent layered sheets of single molecules of graphene on the scale of centimetres, metres, kilometres



The Frontier material Multi-layered sheet single crystal graphene (Nixene)

Nixene has yet to be made at scale: Predicted properties

- 200 times stronger than steel
- Extremely high melting point
- Chemically stable surface
- As hard as diamond
- Extremely thin, probably inflexible,
- Anisotropic electrical and thermal conductivity
- Impermeable to all gases
- Untearable
- Unbreakable

Multilayer graphene Predicted to look metallic. Electrically conductive in the x/y direction much less in the z direction and probably mirror-like

Predicted to look metallic. Electrically conductive in the x/y direction much less in the z direction and probably mirror-like



Sheet Graphene Applications: Examples



Graphene Sheet / Film and the Space Elevator



[2] http://images.spaceref.com/docs/spaceelevator/521Edwards.pdf

Graphene Sheet / Film a candidate tether material for the Space Elevator

Single Crystal Graphene has a tensile strength of 130 GPa

It also is very lightweight one square metre weighs just 0.77 milligrams

So, single crystal graphene is strong enough and light enough to be a tether candidate material

Can graphene be made at the industrial scales needed?



Graphene Hall Effect sensors are ready for highradiation applications in space and beyond

> Hall Effect sensors are a critical electronic component in a variety of applications, from proximity sensing and speed detection through to current sensing

Conventional sensors made from silicon and other semiconductor materials react adversely to neutron radiation, unless they are encapsulated in radiation-hardened packaging

Hall sensors made from graphene are more sensitive than conventional silicon based sensors.

This latest testing shows they are also more resistant to radiation

Tests conducted by the UK National Physical Laboratory have shown that graphene Hall sensors survive exposure to a neutron dose of 241 mSv/hour – which is about 30,000 times the expected typical neutron dose rate in the International Space Station

Image credit: Pixabay and Adrian Nixon

https://www.eejournal.com/industry_news/paragraf-and-npl-demonstrate-that-paragrafsgraphene-hall-effect-sensors-are-ready-for-high-radiation-applications-in-space-and-beyond-2/

Source:



Graphene Field Effect transistors – lab on a chip





CVD Graphene can now be used to make reliable field effect transistors that can detect biochemicals in body fluids

The technology is progressing rapidly and multiple sensors can be embedded on one chip

The this means multiple results can be read out rapidly from just one sample. Useful for diagnostics in remote locations



The graphene Field Effect Transistor (FET) Sensor: a lab on a chip for Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2) detection



Cardea and The University of Berkeley California have a designed a graphene FET sensor with CRISPR technology

The company is now working on the detection of SARS-CoV-2 virus RNA to give results in minutes

Image Credit: Cardea Bio

CRISPR: clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats

Source: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41587-020-0597-x https://cardeabio.com/crispr-chip/



Korean Graphene Field Effect Transistor detects SARS-CoV-2 virus



Sheet Graphene: Lightweight Flexible touchscreens

Flexible display technology developed by Arizona State University, as funded by the U.S. Army The flexible display works well However the flexible touchscreen overlayer has not yet been developed

Indium Tin oxide (ITO) is the best touchscreen material Cheap Transparent Electrically conductive However ITO is brittle and cannot be used for flexible touchscreens

Large scale sheet single crystal graphene has already been proved to make flexible touchscreens by Samsung in 2013 Currently waiting for industrial production of sheet graphene to catch up



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flexible_display#/media/File:Flexible_display.jpg Wikipedia, CC BY 2.0

Multi layered sheet graphene: Lightweight armour

Lightweight armour is another market that will be disrupted by Single Crystal Graphene

Current lightweight armour market is based on liquid armour technology



Layered (1000s) Single Crystal Graphene (nixene) thin as plastic film and as lightweight will stop a bullet

https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170726005685/en/Top-3-Emerging-Trends-Impacting-Global-Military

Graphene Solar Sails









Image credit: Pixabay

In 2018 the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT), the rocket development arm of the Chinese space programme, revealed that it has designed a graphene composite film suitable for use in light-propelled spacecraft. [1]



In 2020 ESA successfully tests a one atom thin Graphene solar sail at the ZARM drop tower in Bremen, Germany and achieved 1ms⁻² with a 1W laser [2]

Image credit: ZARM



Sources:

- 1. http://www.spacetechasia.com/china-designs-graphene-composite-film-for-light-propulsion/
- 2. https://www.esa.int/ESA_Multimedia/Images/2020/05/Graphene_sail_in_microgravity

Graphene: Current reality - Impossible to Industrial in 17 years

If you think graphene is overhyped - think again

We are seeing proven double-digit performance improvements in multiple applications of graphene powders and dispersions

CVD (sheet) graphene is starting to make an appearance in sensors and actively considered for the Space Elevator tether



Graphene is the swiss army knife of advanced materials



Interactive session

What applications come to mind for graphene? (Thinking aloud, and allowed)

Ask anything you like... (see how long it takes to get us to say 'we don't know')



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