

Prof. Andrea C. Ferrari
Engineering Department
Cambridge University
9 JJ Thomson Avenue
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14th May 2013

Dear Andrea,

I write to strongly endorse the application of the University of Cambridge, in the framework of the EPSRC Capital for Great Technologies call, for a suite of facilities aimed at translation from materials discovery and characterization through to product development. Reducing the time required to bring discoveries to the market is a key driving force behind a more competitive manufacturing sector and economic growth.

Dyson Ltd is a British technology company, founded in 1992 by Sir James Dyson, which designs and manufactures vacuum cleaners, hand dryers, and bladeless fans and heaters. We sell machines in over 50 countries and employ 3,100 people worldwide, including over 1,500 at the headquarters in Malmesbury, Wiltshire, half of which are in R&D. The company's focus is always on developing new technology which will make our products unique. Dyson has a significant interest in the latest developments in the field of energy generation and storage due to our growing portfolio of portable products. Carbon-based advanced materials represent a promising and versatile enabling nanotechnology with the potential to create novel, flexible, and lower-cost solutions for energy generation and storage, bringing as-yet unthought-of solutions to current and future industrial challenges in these areas.

Cambridge is a recognised global leader in graphene engineering, having pioneered most of the current streams, from bulk production, through mass scale identification by optical and spectroscopic means, to its implementation in composites, printed and flexible electronics, lasers, photo-detectors, sensors, antennae, etc. Cambridge also has world-leading programmes in the development and optimisation of batteries and supercapacitors. Dyson believes that the success of the Cambridge proposals and the establishment of a dedicated suite of characterisation and processing facilities will accelerate the development of carbon-based energy generation, storage, and delivery solutions, with a clear pathway for impact on UK technology and engineering.

We intend to support the project by providing an industrial focus, and by sharing the expertise of our Lead Electrochemist, Dr Emmanuel Eweka, and his team to evaluate the practical applications of materials and methods developed during the research. The in-kind value of this time would be £20k per annum. This, in turn, will allow us to extend our understanding of the properties and applications of novel advanced materials, accessing processing and characterization tools not present in industry. We will support a PhD student (at a cost of £35K per annum) subject to final approval by our management.

We already have in place a confidentiality agreement and research project framework agreement with Cambridge University which would allow us to begin any formal collaboration in accordance with the proposed project start dates.

Kind regards,

Charles Collis
External Technology and Research
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