

# PLASTIC LOGIC

Prof. Ferrari  
Electrical Engineering Division,  
Engineering Department,  
University of Cambridge,  
9, JJ Thomson Avenue,  
Cambridge, CB3 0FA

Dear Prof. Ferrari,

I write to endorse in the strongest possible terms 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.

Plastic Logic is the leader in the field of plastic electronics. Since being founded by researchers from the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University, Plastic Logic has been at the forefront of research and investment into plastic electronics. We have achieved many technological firsts in making plastic electronics a reality. The company was the first to fully industrialise the mass production of plastic electronics in the world's first plastic electronics factory, achieving production yields of plastic electronic displays comparable to the LCD industry.

Plastic Logic has also broken new ground in what possible with plastic electronic displays. Today we develop and manufacture ultra-thin, ultra-lightweight and high-quality plastic displays of various sizes and in both colour and monochrome. These offer huge advantages over conventional screens, being extremely flexible and hard-wearing, with proven lifetimes of over five years and more than ten million page updates.

We now leverage our R&D and manufacturing resources to allow partners such as OEMs, system integrators and device manufacturers, to utilise its flexible display technology. We have an established footprint in the UK, Germany and Russia, and sell globally. In particular our main R&D lab is based in Cambridge, a few minutes away from the proposed location of the new facilities.

Plastic Logic is supported by a broad and experienced international investor base. With a strong IP portfolio and a unique scalable organic electronics manufacturing facility, we are your partner of choice in the field of plastic electronics.

Carbon materials are emerging as novel materials in printed and flexible electronics thanks to the pioneering work done at the University of Cambridge. Indeed, Cambridge is a recognised global leader in carbon 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 is also well recognised for high-performance, flexible batteries and supercapacitors.

Plastic Logic believes that the success of the Cambridge proposal will accelerate the development of devices, with a clear pathway for impact on UK technology and engineering.

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We look forward to the chance of interacting with a variety of researchers from Cambridge and other UK institutions, as well as with the various other companies supporting this excellent proposal.

If the proposal is successful Plastic Logic would play an active role supporting the work, with an expected benefit from the new facilities. Over the years we have developed great expertise with large area processing. We will consider donating equipment fitting in with the emerging research and technology directions enabled by the requested funds. One concrete example is a semi-automatic, large area EVG Spray coater. The tool is ideal for large area application and very easy to use and comprises a spray coating section, hotplate and chill plate connected with a horizontal robotic transport system. This equipment is quoted at 750000 Euros.

Plastic Logic has a long track record of supporting longer to medium term research programs with academic partners. We currently sponsor two PhD students and have provided direct funding to research programs in the Cambridge Integrated Knowledge Centre. Our annual budget for these type of programs is usually >£50k a year. Relevant Cambridge researchers will be given access to our facilities on the Science Park to carry out tests or processes of mutual interest. Finally, our in-house expert Dr Guillaume Fichet, one of our Principal Research Scientists, will closely follow the progress of this project and will liaise with Prof. Ferrari on a frequent basis.

Plastic Logic will facilitate the achievement of the project goals and in addition provide an industrial focus. On the other hand, we will acquire first-hand experience and access to the state of the art characterization facilities and expertise in the University of Cambridge. This will allow us to test novel carbon-based devices and inks to fabricate cutting-edge flexible electronic devices. This will be the ideal test-bed in order for us to make an informed decision on mass production and commercialization.

We thus wish you every success in securing this funding and especially in achieving the extremely important goals of your project. UK is the world-leading country in plastic electronics and carbon nanotechnology. This funding, and the collaboration with Plastic Logic, will ensure that these two major streams of science and technology get the perfect match, in order to secure a swift commercial exploitation, thus benefiting UK plc and society at large.

Yours sincerely,



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