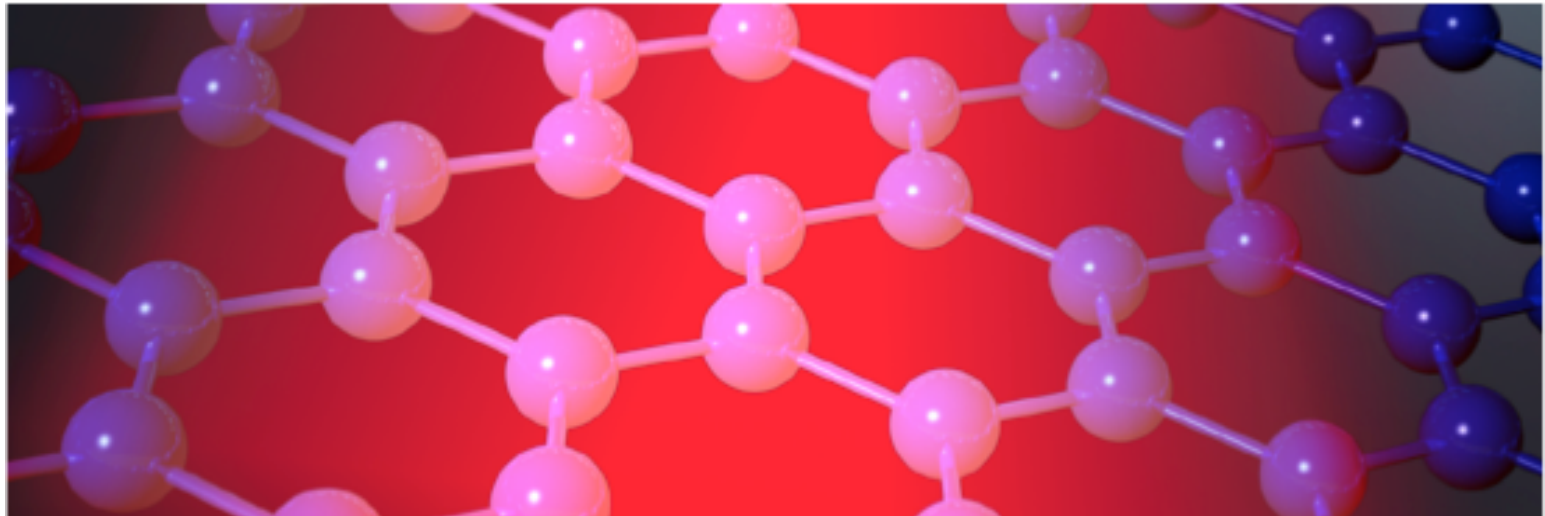


# Graphene in Sensors Applications

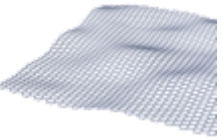
Amaia Zurutuza  
Scientific Director



# Content

1. Graphenea
2. Graphene synthesis
3. Graphene integration
4. Applications in sensors
5. Conclusions

# Important milestones



**SIGMA-ALDRICH®**



Geim & Novoselov  
publish Science  
paper

Sigma-Aldrich  
selects  
Graphenea as  
supplier

Repsol Energy  
Ventures  
joins  
Graphenea  
€1 m

US branch  
opened

2.5M \$  
investment for  
scale up  
secured

First funding  
round closed  
\$1,8 m

First  
Graphene  
produced in  
Graphenea

Moving to a  
larger  
laboratory

€1 m sales  
milestone

2004

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

Jesus de la Fuente  
writes first Business  
Case

Graphenea  
founded

First  
commercial  
order

**PHILIPS**

Graphene  
Flagship  
approved €1B  
10 years  
project



Global Top  
100 Ones to  
Watch

Capacity  
Expansion  
20x times

**NOKIA**  
Connecting People



We are expanding our global presence





# Graphenea sites



Research @ CIC nanogune (San Sebastian, Spain)

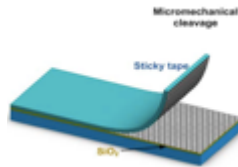


CVD & GO Production Lab @ Miramon Technology Park  
(San Sebastian, Spain)

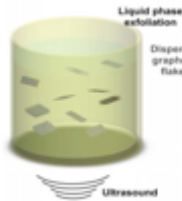
# Graphene synthesis

## Graphene Powder

Micro-mechanical exfoliation

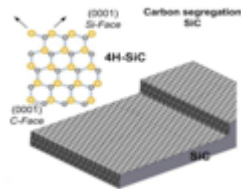


Liquid phase exfoliation (chemical)

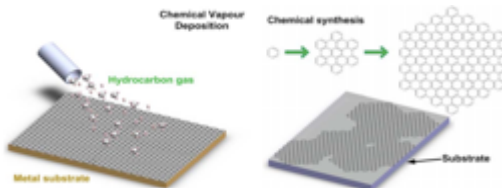


## Graphene Films

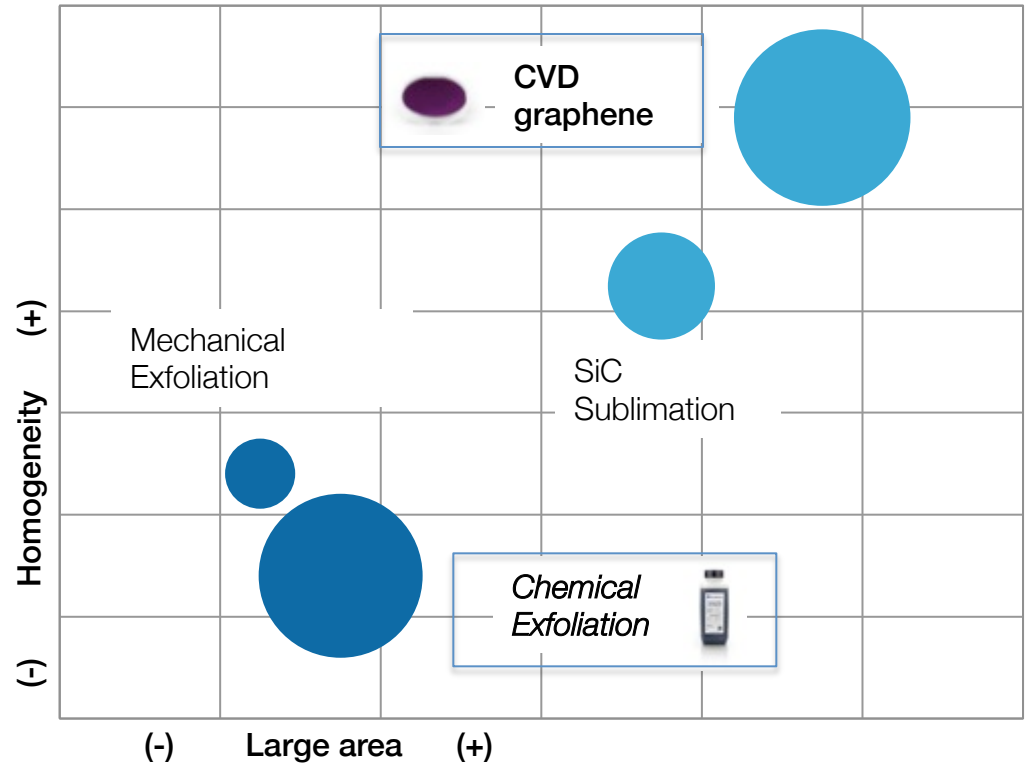
SiC Sublimation



CVD



Graphene synthesis technologies comparison



Industrial scalability

# New facilities

- New 8" CVD system
- Cleanroom class ISO7
- GO pilot plant 1Tone/year

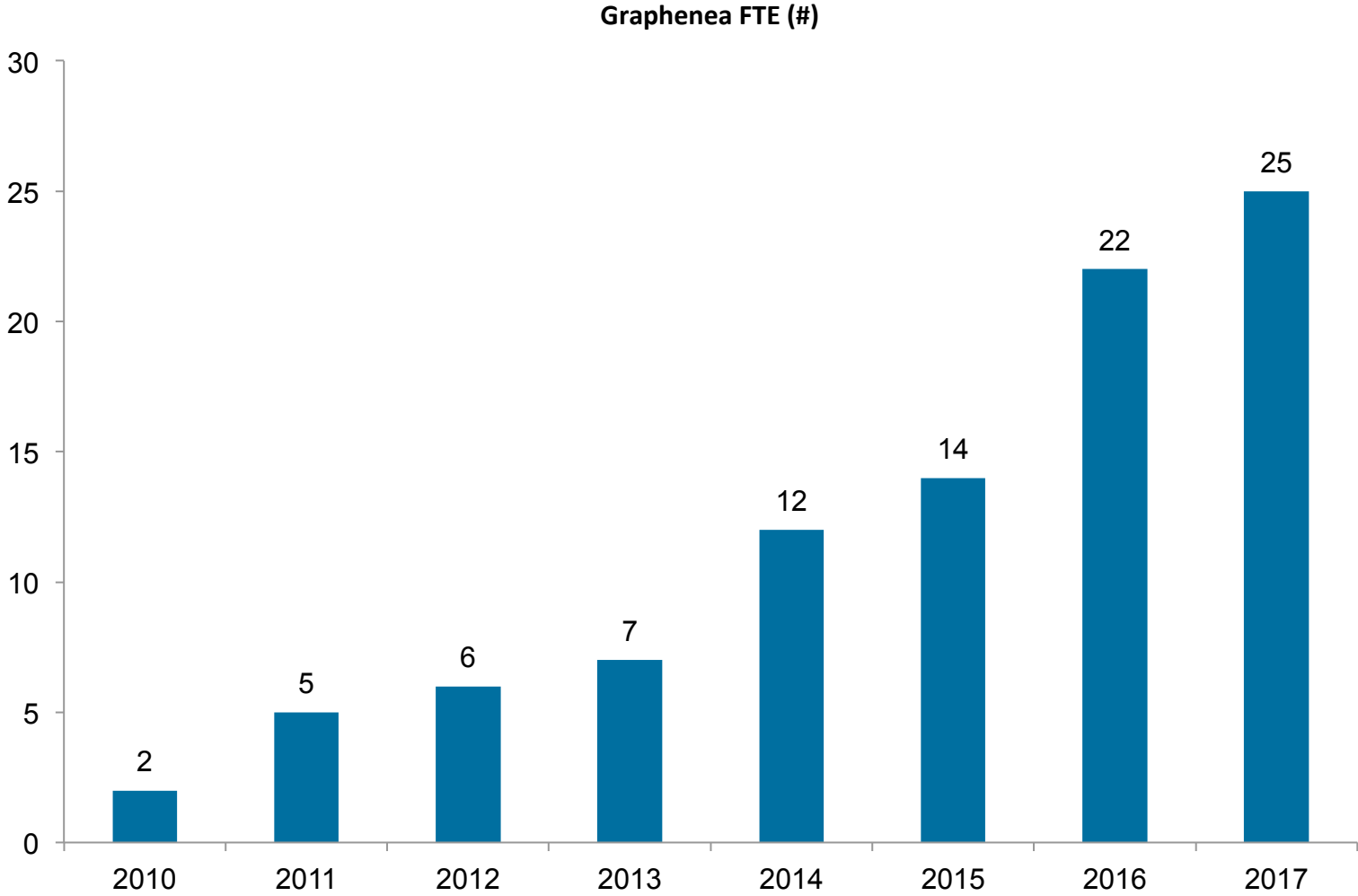


Clean room CVD graphene



GO Pilot plant

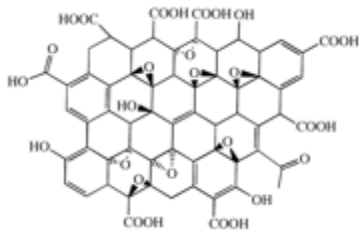
# Large team



Source: Graphenea

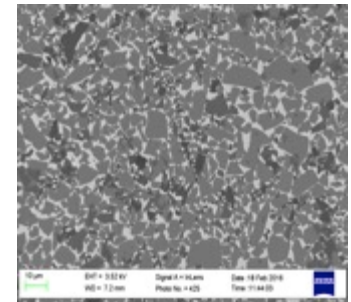
# Graphenea GO Product Range

## Graphene oxide

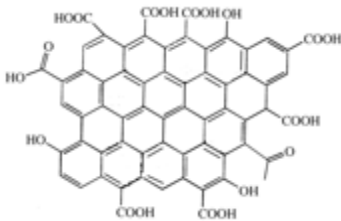


|               |                                     |          |        |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Form          | Dispersion of graphene oxide sheets | Carbon   | 49-56% |
| Particle size | D90 29.05 - 32.9 $\mu\text{m}$      | Hydrogen | 0-1%   |
|               | D50 14.30 - 16.6 $\mu\text{m}$      | Nitrogen | 0-1%   |
|               | D10 5.90 - 6.63 $\mu\text{m}$       | Sulfur   | 2-4%   |
| pH            | 2,2-2,5                             | Oxygen   | 41-50% |

SEM image

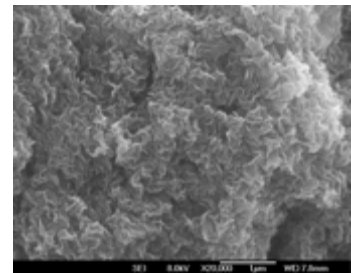


## Reduced graphene oxide



|  |                                     |          |        |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Form   | Powder                              | Carbon   | 77-87% |
| Electrical conductivity                      | $\approx 667 \text{ S/m}$           | Hydrogen | 0-1%   |
| BET surface area                             | 422.69-499.85 $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ | Nitrogen | 0-1%   |
| Particle size (z-sizer in NMP at 0,1 mg/mL): | 260-295nm                           | Sulfur   | 0%     |
| Density                                      | 1,91 $\text{g/cm}^3$                | Oxygen   | 13-22% |

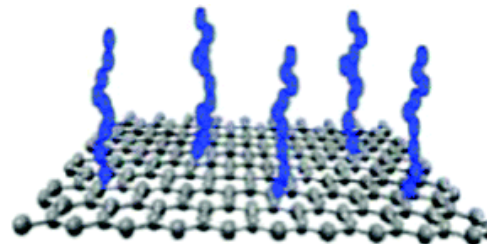
SEM image



## Functionalized graphene oxide

Customised functionalization:

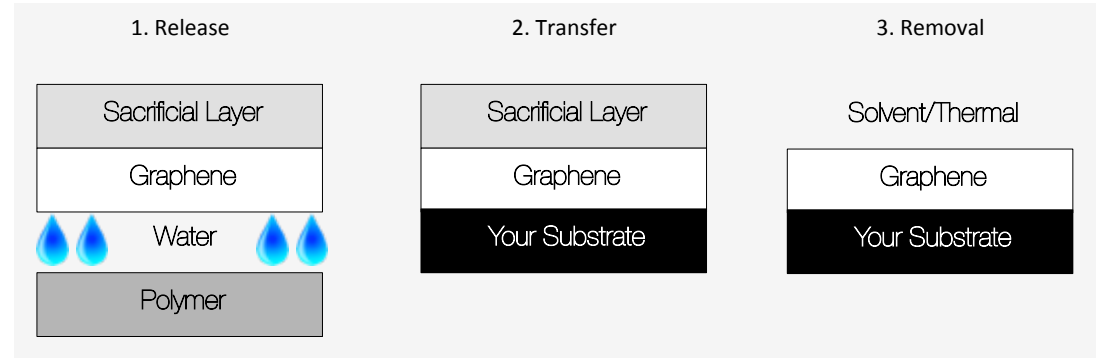
- Compatibilisation with matrix





# Graphenea CVD Product Range

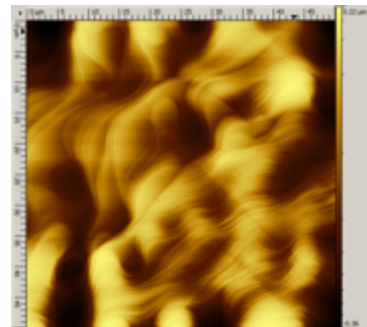
## Easy transfer graphene



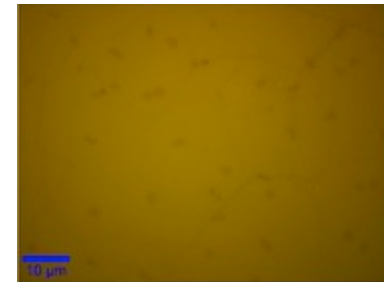
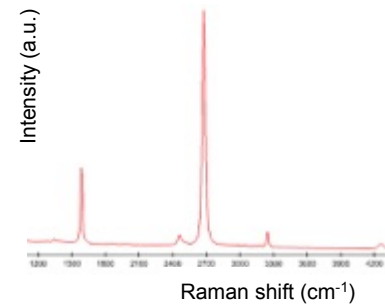
## Graphene on different substrates



## Graphene on Cu

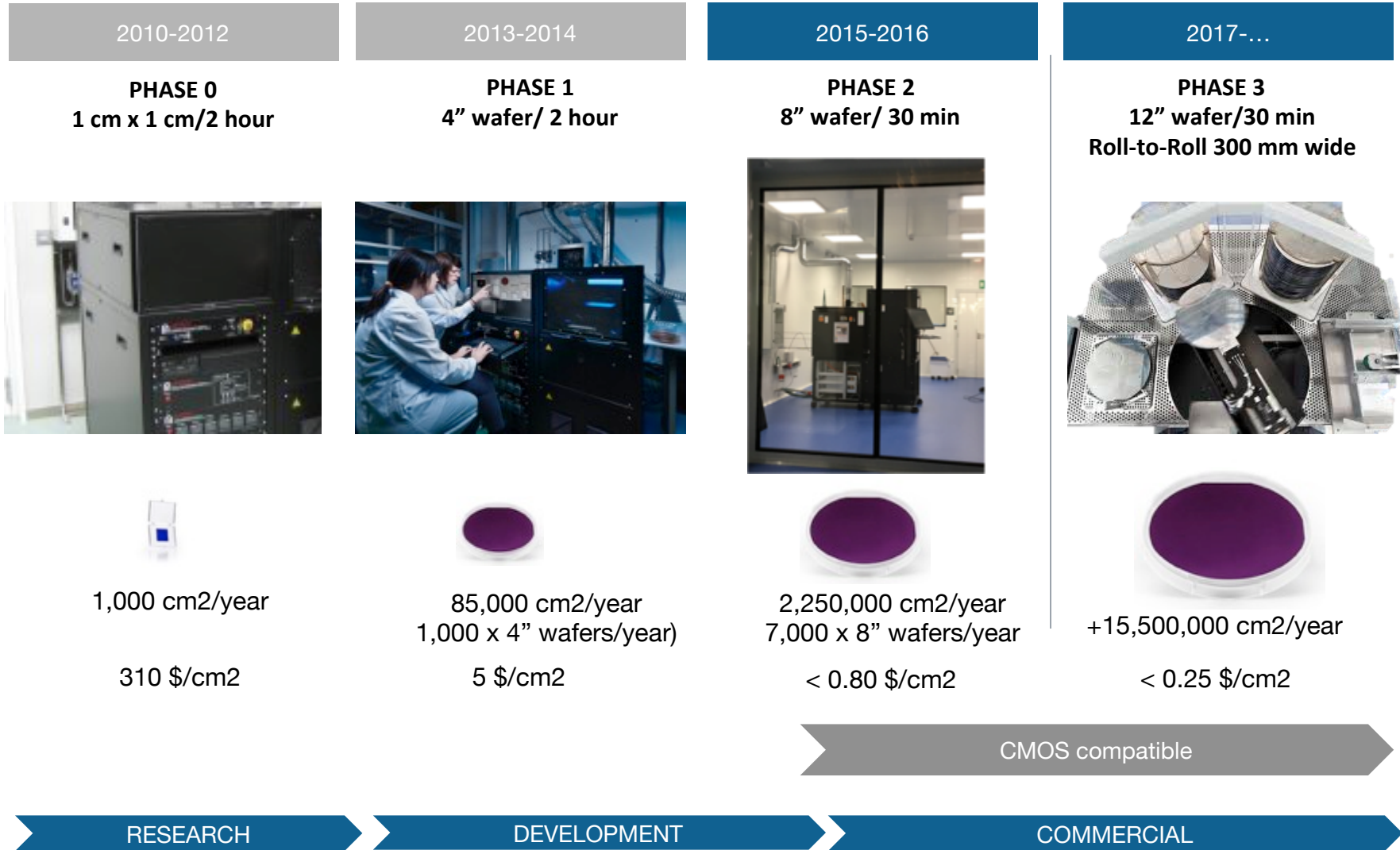


G/Cu



G/SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si

# Graphenea CVD production capacity roadmap



# Graphene films

CVD Graphene



GROWTH

TRANSFER

INTEGRATION



GROWTH

# Monolayer Graphene Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD)

**Catalyst: Cu foil**



❖ **Advantages:**

- Homogeneous growth
- >95% Monolayer
- Few defects
- Good properties
- Optimized transfer process



- Current Capacity: 4" wafer
- Next: 8" wafer



Nucleation

Coalescence

Continuous film

time →

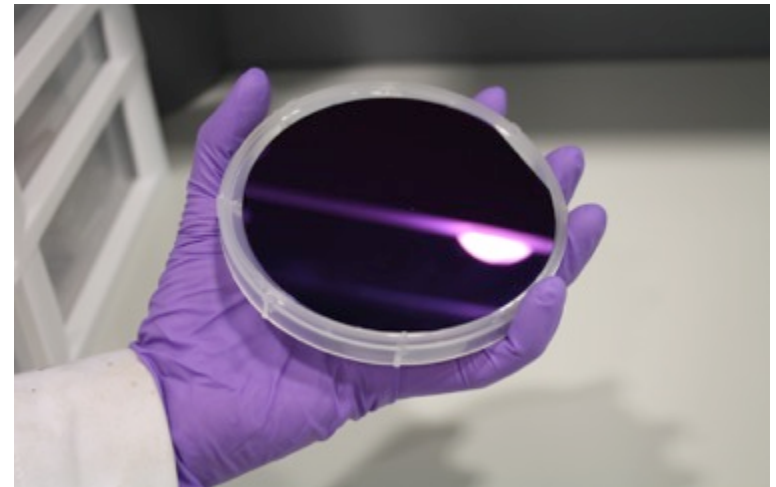
TRANSFER

# CVD Graphene Transfer

Graphene on catalyst



Graphene onto  
the desire substrate



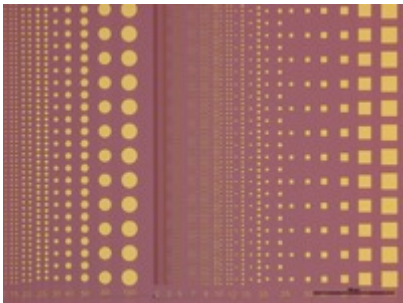
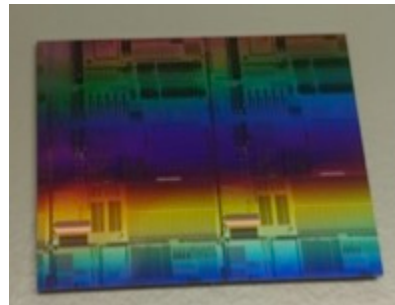
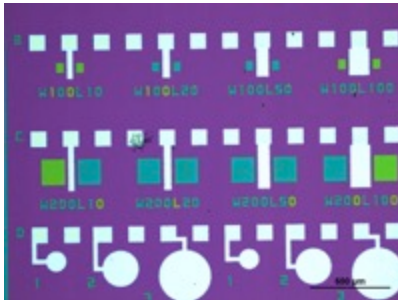
- The quality of the transfer and the substrate supporting graphene together with the quality of the interface between graphene and the substrate have large impacts on the properties of graphene and device performance

## TRANSFER

# CVD Graphene Transfer

## Importance of the substrate

The type of substrate will define the transfer process



- Structured substrates
- Perforated substrates: holes, cavities
- Water soluble substrates
- Number
- Size: 1x1mm<sup>2</sup> up to 4"
- Shape: rectangular, circular..

• Type of Material: CaF<sub>2</sub>, Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>..

• Roughness

• Hydrophobicity

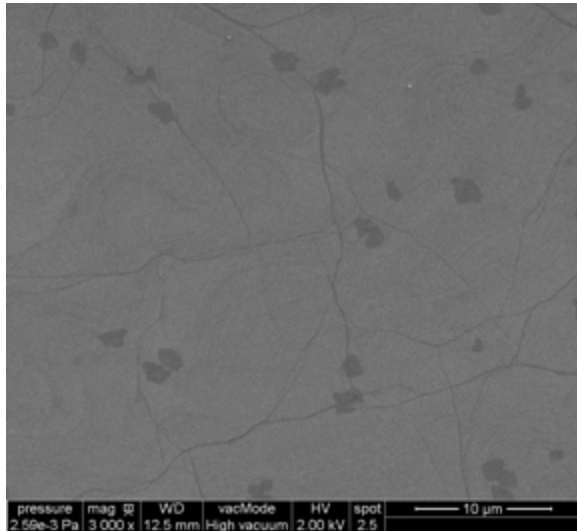
# CVD Graphene Transfer

There is no standard process for all the substrates and applications

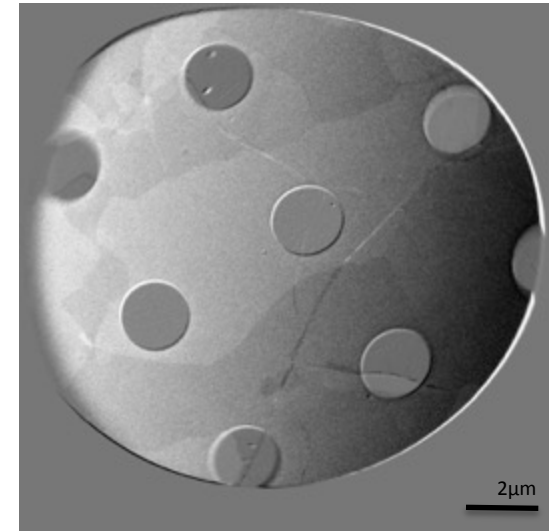
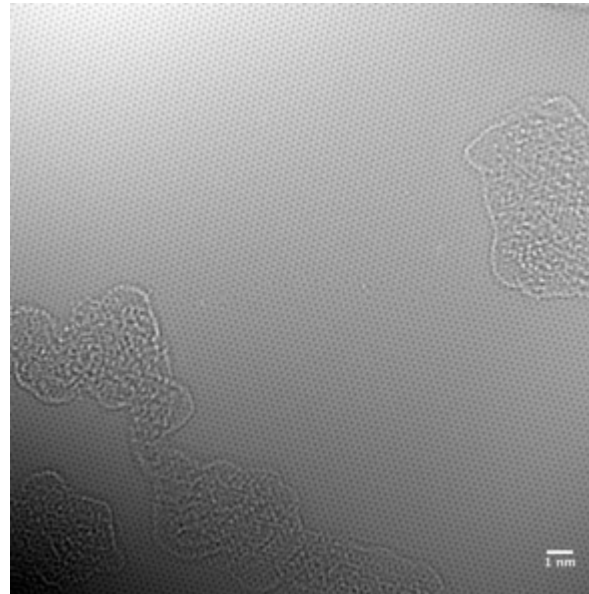
- Wet Transfer
- Dry Transfer
- Semi-dry Transfer

# CVD Graphene characterisation

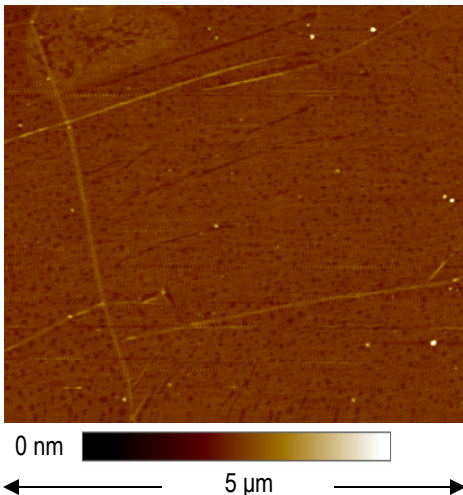
## Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)



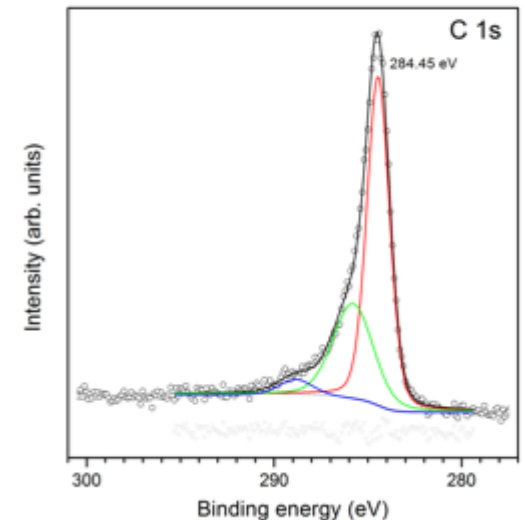
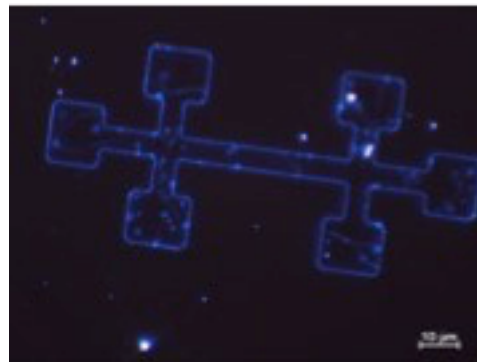
## Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)



## Atomic Force Microscopy

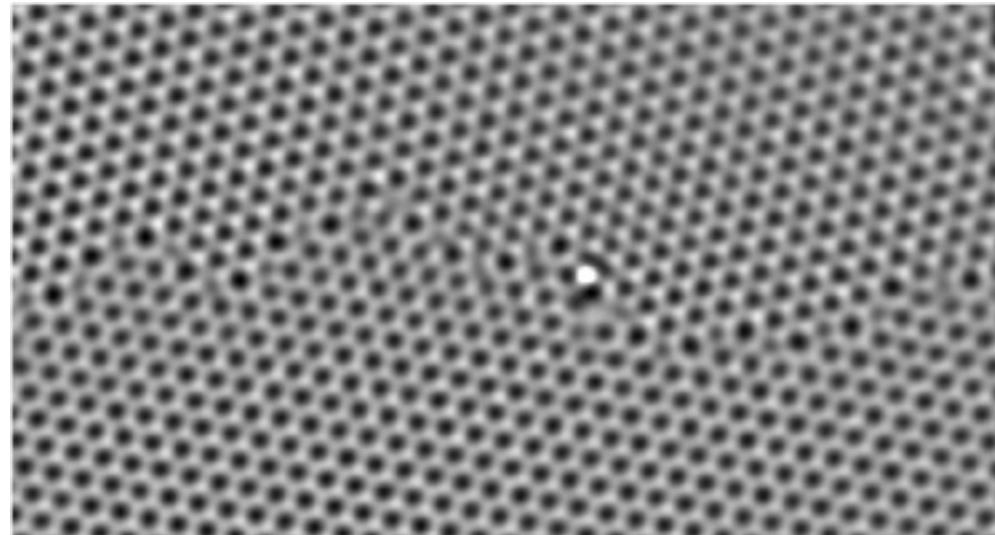
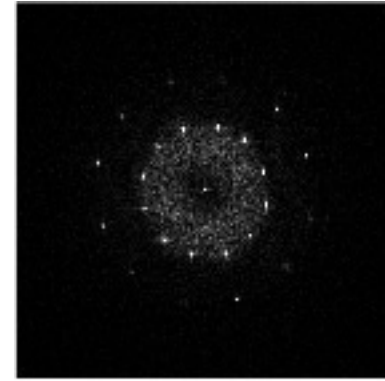
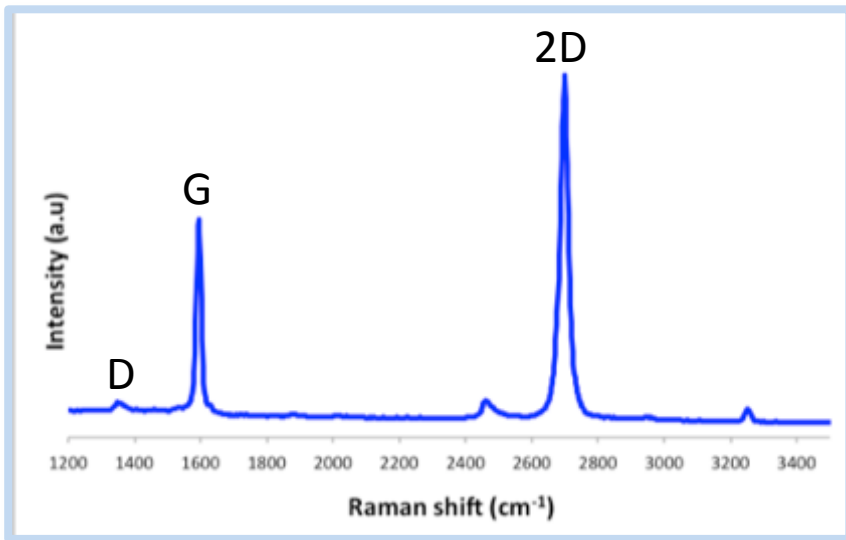


## Electronic characterisation



## X-Ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS)

## CVD Graphene characterisation

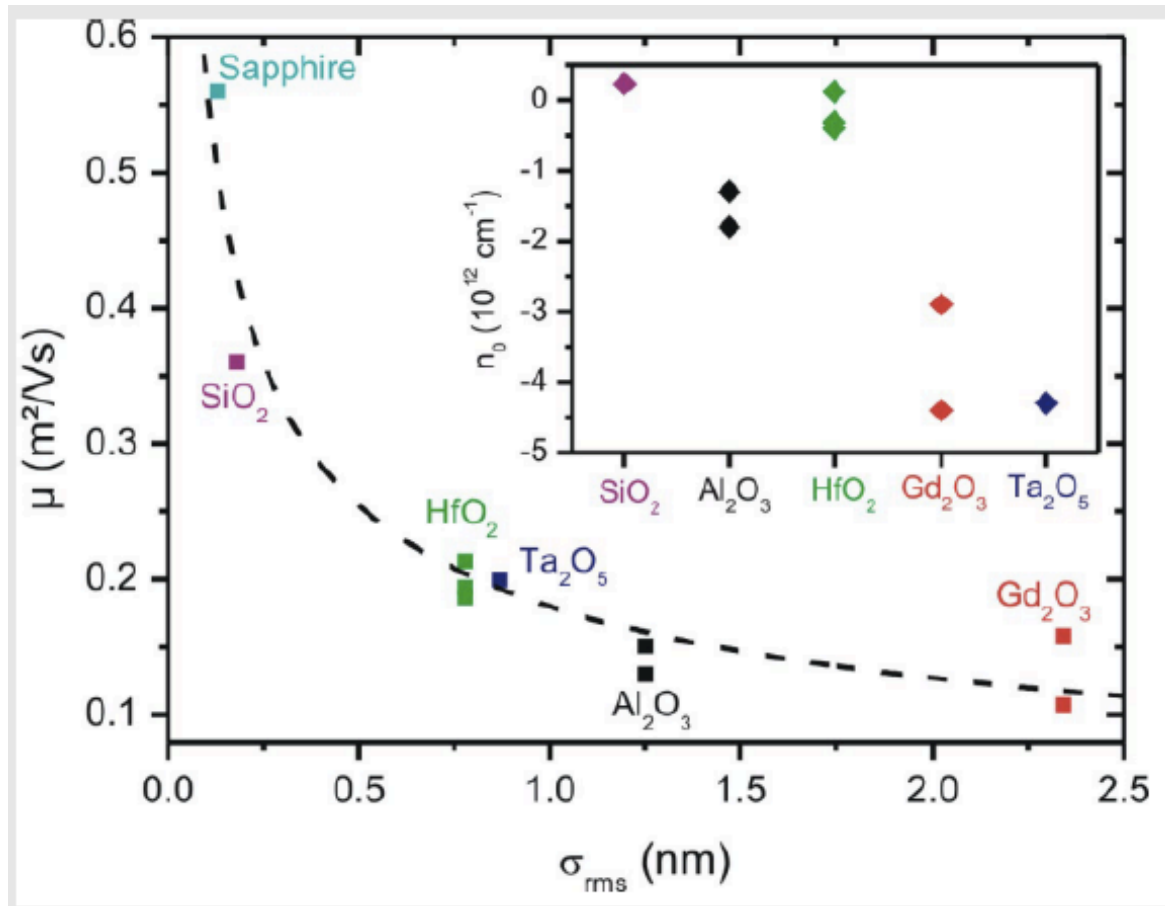


- ✓ Monolayer continuous films
- ✓ Polycrystalline: grain sizes up to  $20\mu\text{m}$

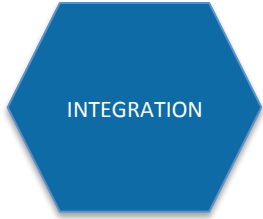


# Substrate effect on Graphene

## Electronic characterisation



Substrate influence on mobility



# Encapsulation



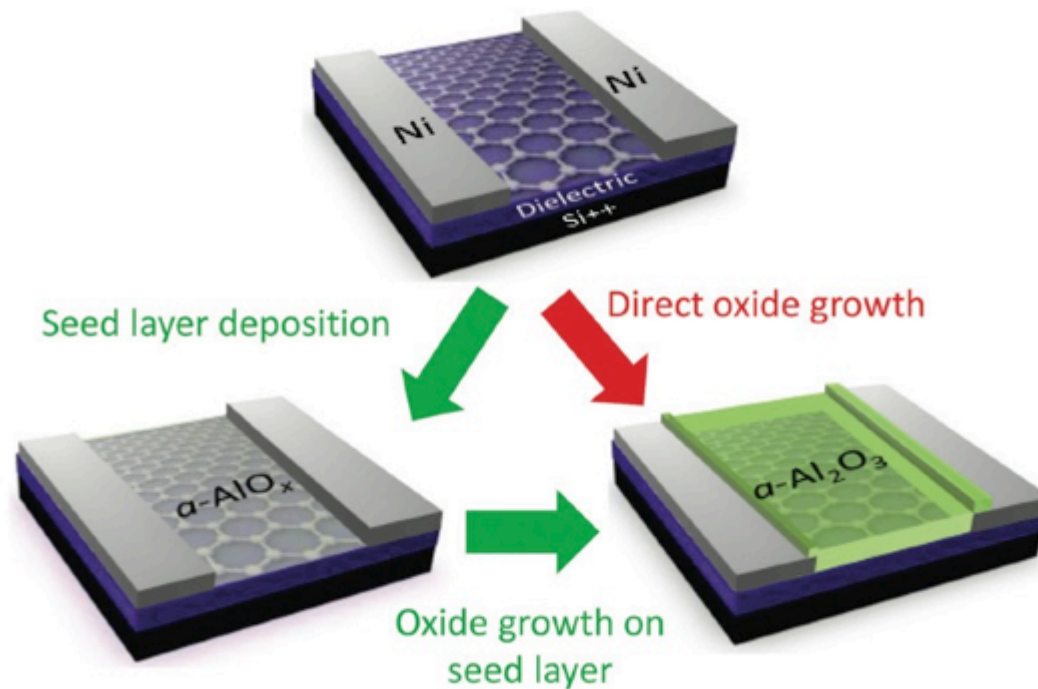
Ambient air, organic solvents, chemicals, lithography resist

- ✓ Lead to graphene doping and hysteretic behaviour in DC characteristics of FETs

Encapsulation of graphene with  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$

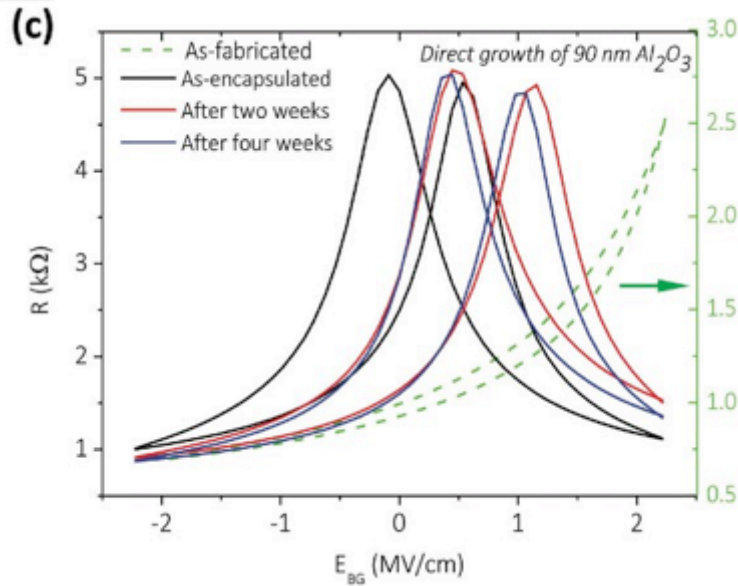


# Encapsulation



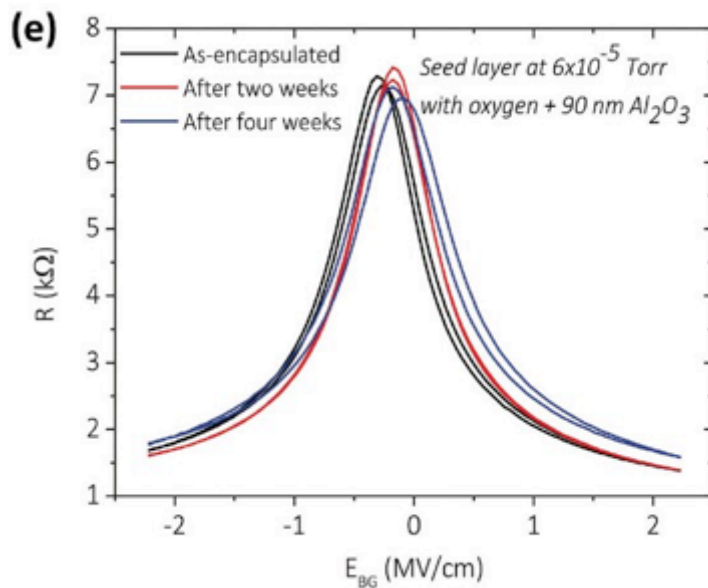
- ✓ Direct deposition of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  by ALD
- ✓ Al seed layer growth by e-beam evaporation +  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  by ALD

# Encapsulation



Direct growth of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  by ALD

- ✓ Hysteresis
- ✓ Not stable over time

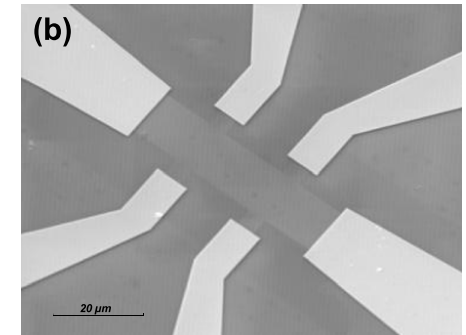
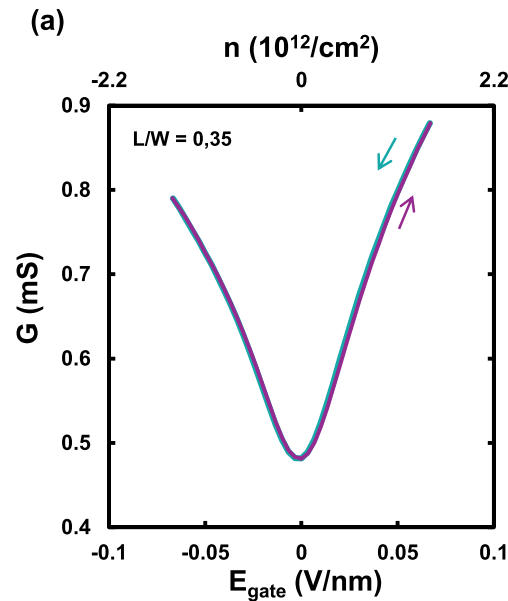
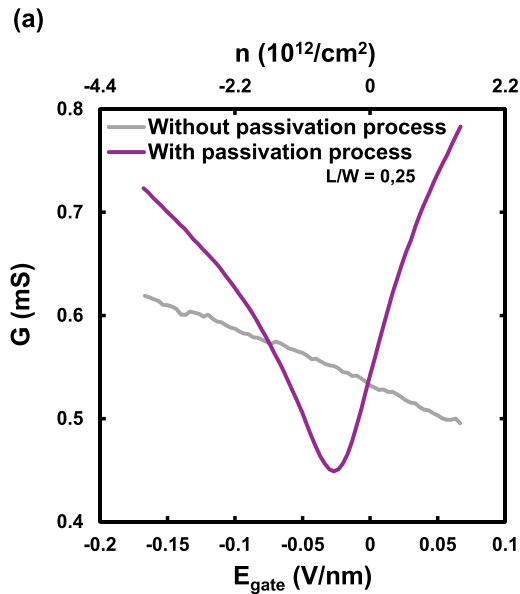


Al seed layer +  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  by ALD

- ✓ No hysteresis
- ✓ Stable over time

# Graphene Integration

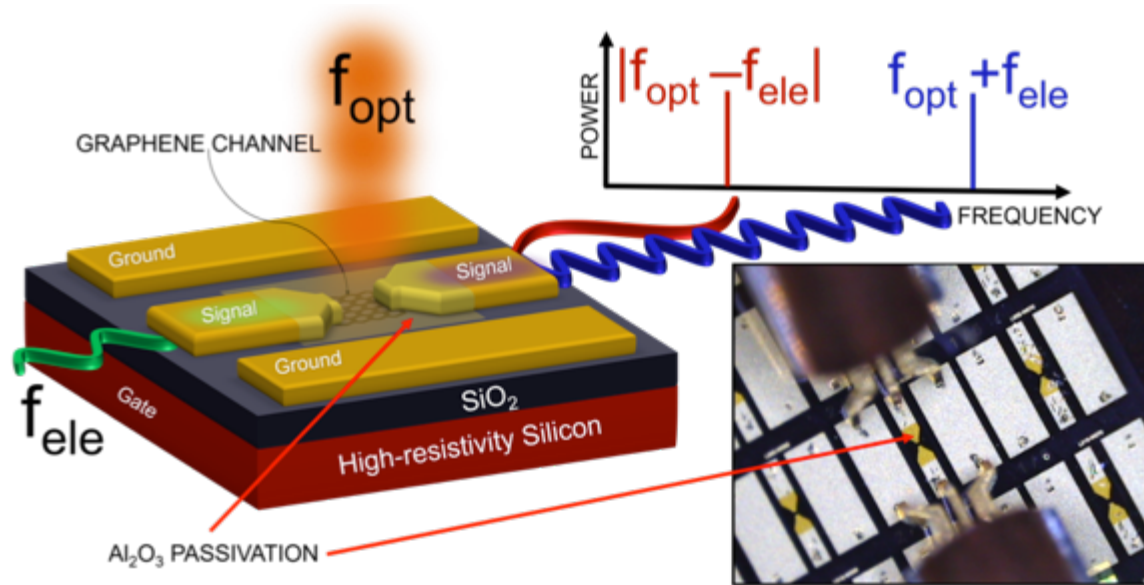
## Statistical analysis of 500 GFETs



- Mobilities up to  $6,900 cm^2/Vs$  on passivated devices
- 75% of passivated transistors exhibited a conductance minimum and low hysteresis

# Graphene optoelectronic mixer

THALES



- ✓ 30 GHz optoelectronic mixing
- ✓ Frequency down conversion to 100MHz

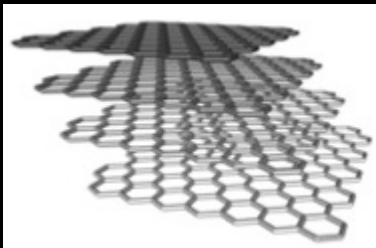
*A. Montanaro et.al. Nano Lett. 16, 2988 (2016)*

# Graphene Integration

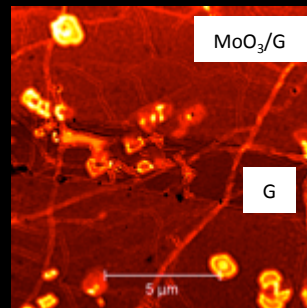
The application will define the graphene requirements

- Properties: Mobility, sheet resistance, transparency...
- Contamination limits: polymer residues, metal content
- Integration: Suspended, back-end, front-end..

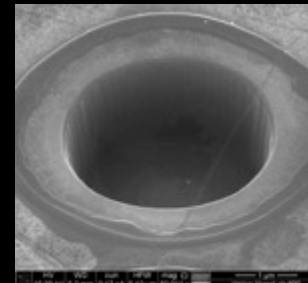
Multilayer samples  
Stacking



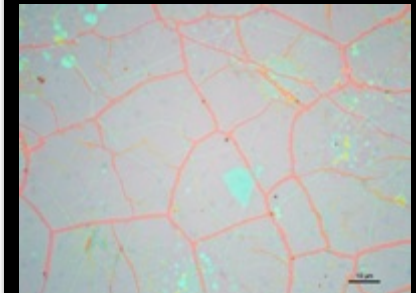
Doped Graphene



Suspended graphene



Encapsulation



# Graphene biosensors

Surface plasmon resonance (SPR) - real time detection & monitoring of biological binding processes at solid interfaces

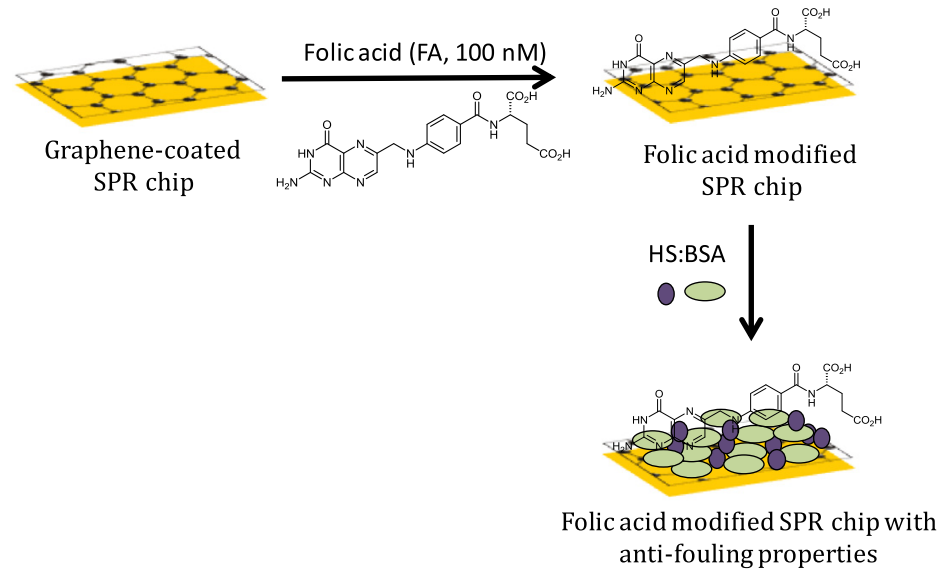
- ✓ Conventional SPR nanomolar sensitivity
- ✓ Not sufficient for gene expression and cancer markers (femto to attomolar required)

# Graphene biosensors

Point of care sensor for the detection of folic acid protein (FAP)

- ✓ FAP is associated with numerous malignancies and are over-expressed in many human epithelial-derived tumors
- ✓ Specific recognition of FAP based on the interaction between folic acid receptors integrated through  $\pi$  stacking on the graphene and the FAP analyte in serum

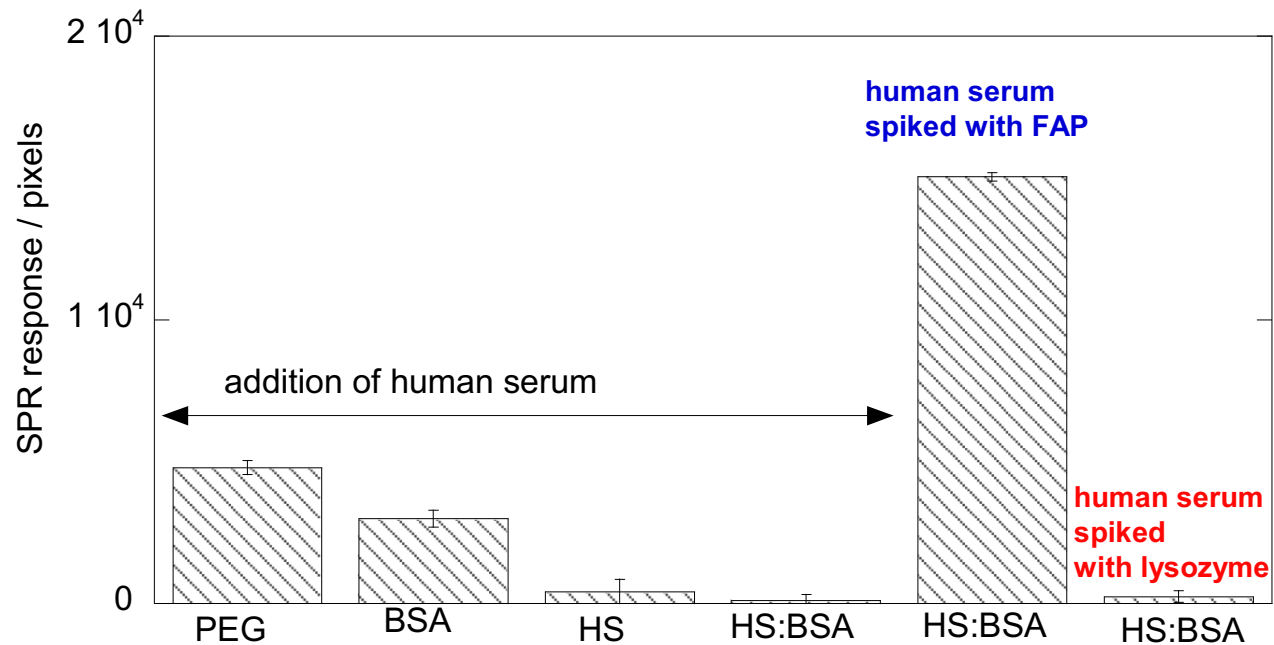
# Graphene biosensors



- ✓ FA immobilised onto graphene coated SPR chips by drop casting followed by dipping into mixture of HS and BSA (to prevent non-specific adsorption)
- ✓ Interaction with FAP by injecting FAP in HS (500fM)



# Graphene biosensors



# Graphene biosensors

✓ Detection limit of FAP was  $\approx 5\text{fM}$

| Methodes     | Interface  | LOD      | Linear range             | Reference                              |
|--------------|--|----------|--------------------------|--|
| QCM          | Au + folate/BSA + anti-FBP                           | 50 pM    | 50 pM to 2 $\mu\text{M}$ | <a href="#">Henne et al. (2006)</a>    |
| Fluorescence | Ag nanoclusters-coated DNA /SWCNTs                   | 33 pg/mL | 0.1–3 ng/mL              | <a href="#">Jiang et al. (2015)</a>    |
| DPV          | CNTs + surface tethered small molecules linked ssDNA | 3 pM     | 3 pM to 1 nM             | <a href="#">Wu et al. (2009)</a>       |
| DPV          | Au/rGO-FA  | 1 pM     | 1–200 pM                 | <a href="#">He et al. (2016)</a>       |
| DPV          | CuNPs-coated DNA/magnetic graphene                   | 7.8pg/mL | 100–0.01 ng/mL           | <a href="#">Zhao et al. (2015)</a>     |
| EIS          | Au + FA-linked DNA                                   | 3 pM     | 10 pM to 500 nM          | <a href="#">Wang et al. (2014)</a>     |
| CV           | Graphene + peptide nanotube-FA                       | 8 nM     | 8 nM to 13 $\mu\text{M}$ | <a href="#">Castillo et al. (2013)</a> |
| SPR          | Graphene + Folic acid                                | 5 fM     | 5–500 fM                 | This work                              |

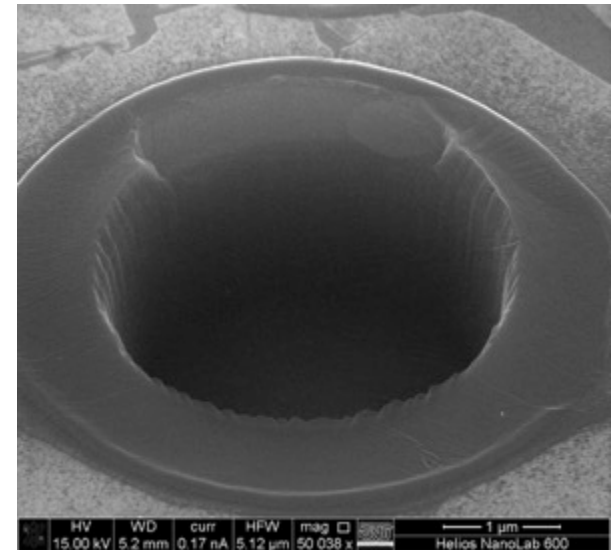
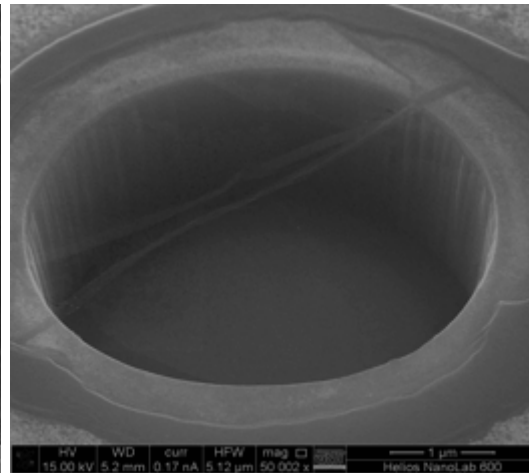
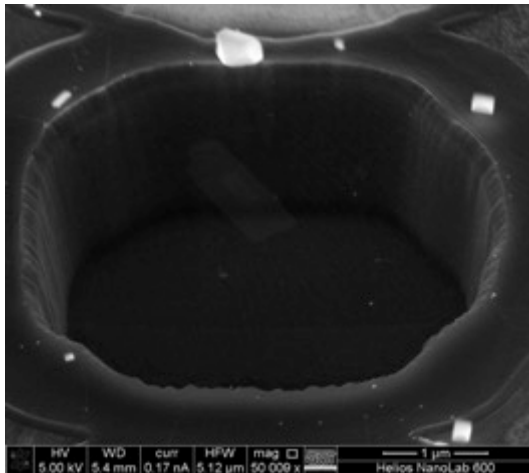
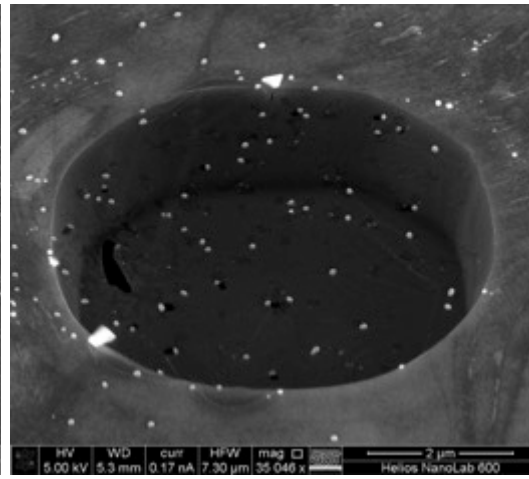
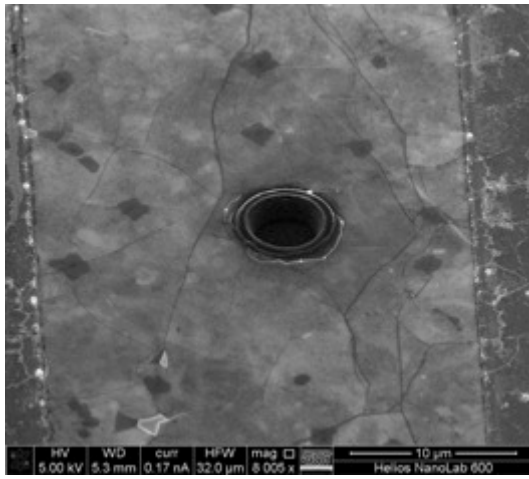
# Graphene biosensors

- ✓ Sensor suitable for biomedical analysis – required FAP concentrations in the low pM range

| biomarker                 | LOD         | Linear range       | Ref.                                      |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---|
| p53                       | 1.06 pM     | 1.06 pM to 53.2 nM | <a href="#">Wang et al. (2009)</a>        |
| A $\beta$ (1-42)          | 3.5 pM      | 0.02–150 nM        | <a href="#">Xia et al. (2010)</a>         |
| A $\beta$ (1-40)          | 0.02–150 nM | 3.3 pM             | <a href="#">Xia et al. (2010)</a>         |
| C-reactive protein        | 5 fg/mL     | 5–5000 fg/mL       | <a href="#">Vance and Sandros (2014)</a>  |
| Prostate-specific antigen | 8.5–1100 pM | 8.5 pM             | <a href="#">Uludag and Tothill (2012)</a> |
| Prostate-specific antigen | 300 aM      | 300 aM to 30 fM    | <a href="#">Krishnan et al. (2011)</a>    |
| FAP                       | 5 fM        | 5–500 fM           | This work                                 |

# Graphene in NEMS/MEMS

## Suspended graphene in pressure sensors



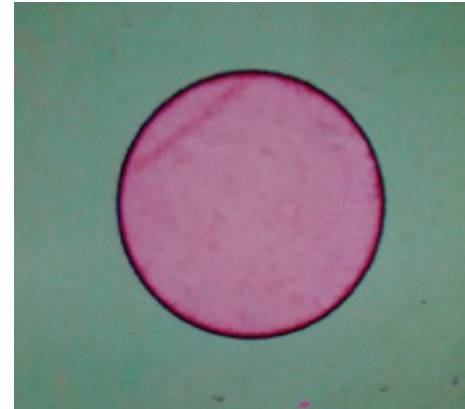
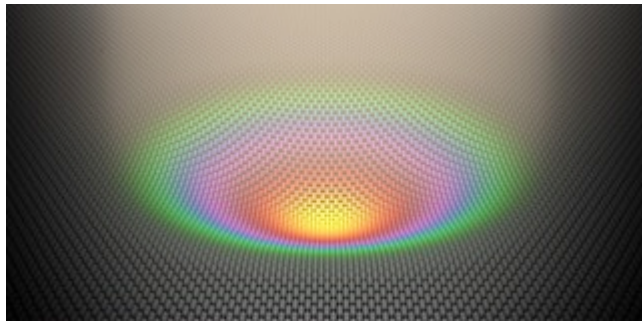
*Courtesy of University of Siegen*

EU Project: NanoGram Consortium

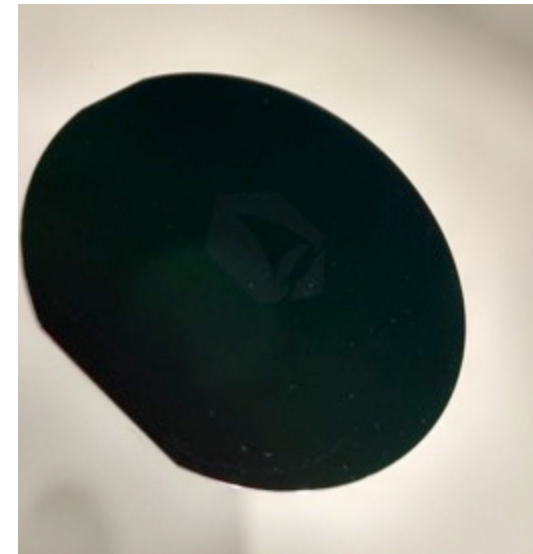
- Development of homogeneous and high quality CVD graphene

# Graphene Interferometric Modulator Display (GIMOD)

## Graphene for mechanical pixels



- Bilayer CVD Graphene suspended onto 50microns cavities that compose the Flagship logo

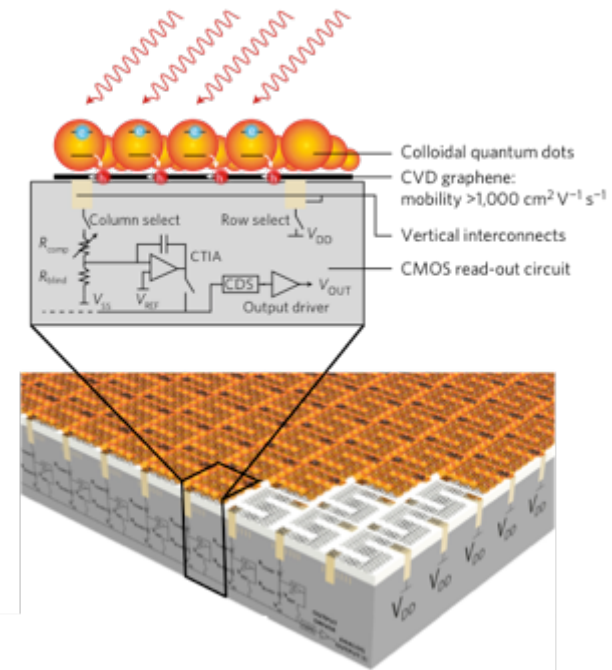
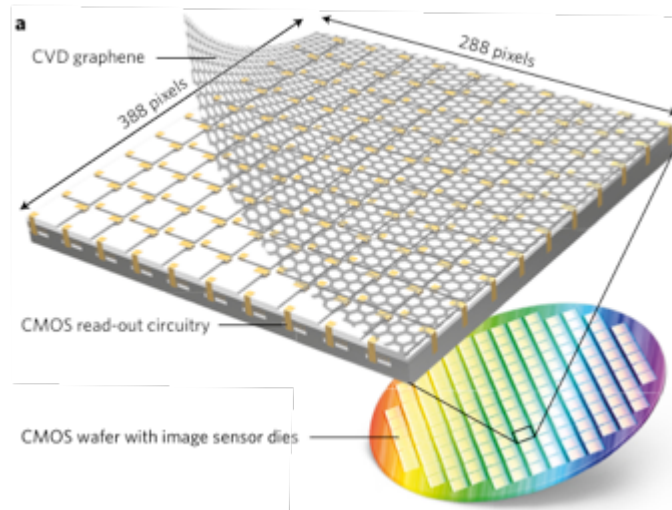


# Broadband image sensor array

APPLICATIONS

## Graphene-quantum dot photodetector array

- Monolithic integration of CMOS ROIC with graphene
- Graphene operates as a high mobility phototransistor
- QDs sensitising layer (PbS)
- Sensitive to UV, visible and IR light (300-2,000nm)



S. Goossens et.al. Nat. Photon. **11**, 366 (2017)



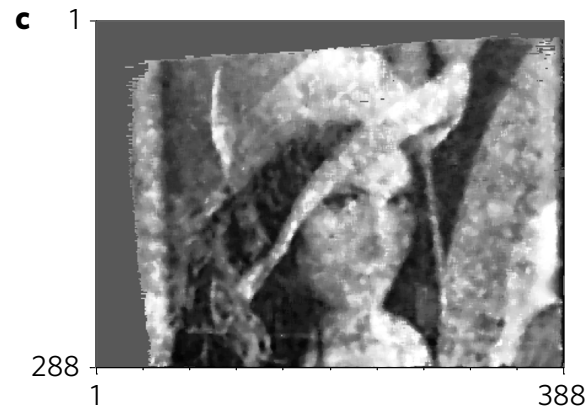
# Broadband image sensor array

## Operates as digital camera

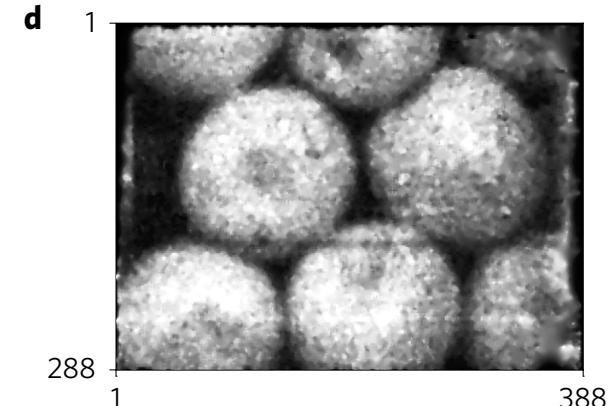
- Graphene-QD image sensor captures reflection images from objects illuminated by a light source (office illumination)



VIS and NIR (400-1,000 nm)




VIS, NIR and SWIR (400-1,850 nm)



- 99.8% of pixels functional
- >95% pixels sensitive to irradiance corresponding to partial-moon and twilight conditions

# Ultra-sensitive and low-cost Graphene Quantum-Dot Photodetector

## Non-invasive health monitoring applications

- 
- ✓ Flexible and transparent
  - ✓ Blood volume
  - ✓ Heart rate
  - ✓ Ultra-sensitive with a gain of  $10^8$  carriers per absorbed photon
  - ✓ Sensitive to both visible and infrared light
  - ✓ No cooling required



ICFO<sup>R</sup>

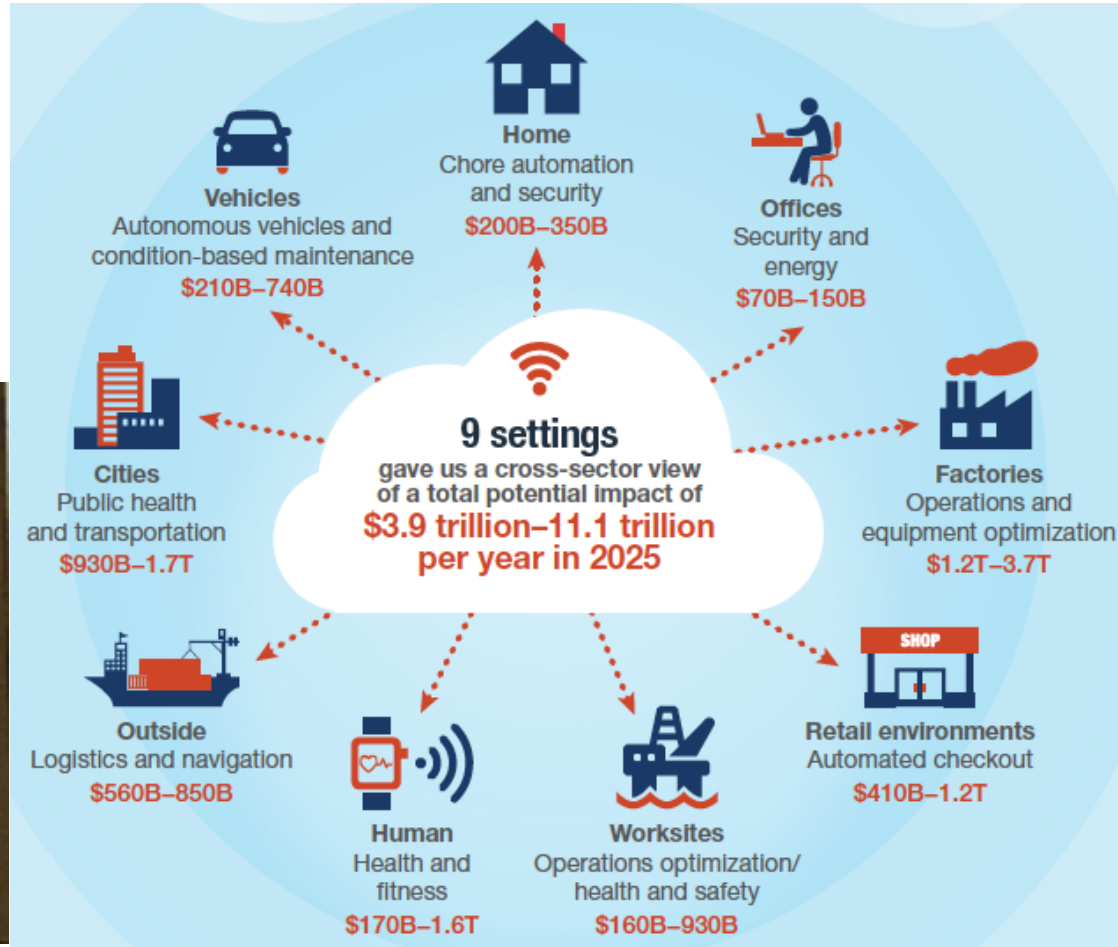
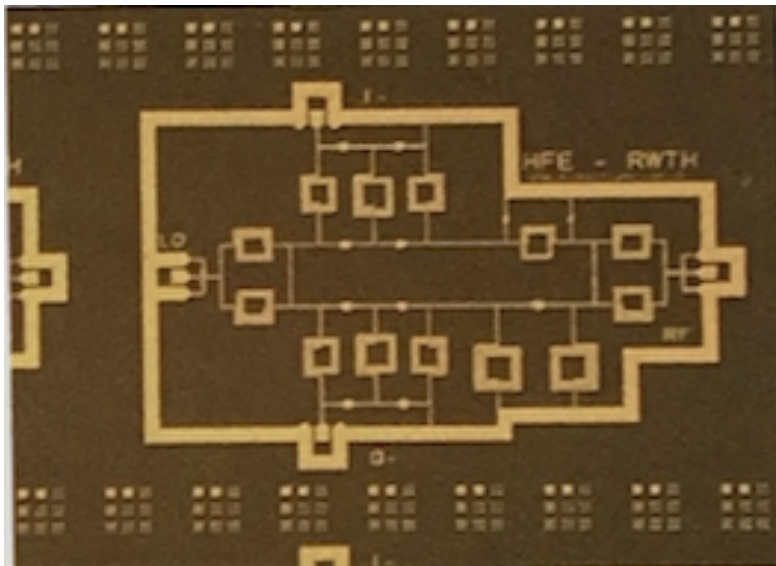


APPLICATIONS

# Graphene flexible WiFi receiver



- 2.4 GHz receiver circuits on plastic
- Ideal for IoT and flexible electronics



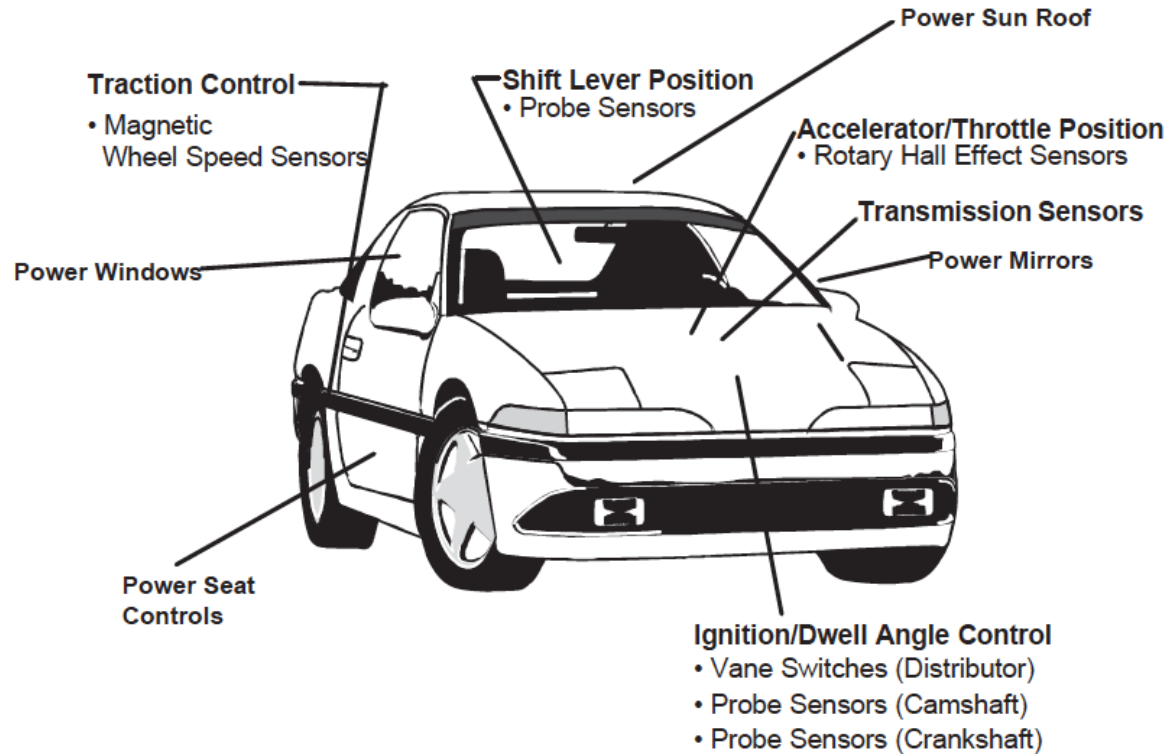
Source: McKinsey

APPLICATIONS

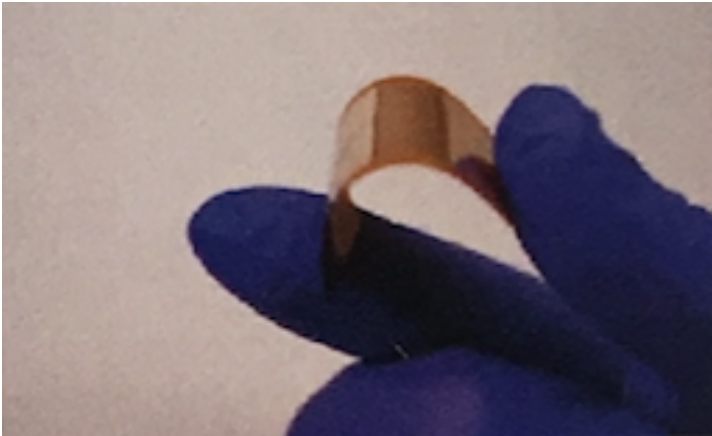
# Graphene flexible Hall sensor



- High sensitivity, linearity and flexibility
- The key factor determining sensitivity of Hall effect sensors is high electron mobility



Source: Honeywell



# Challenges

It is necessary to develop a customised material depending on the application and provide an easy integration method in order to promote graphene into commercial applications



Graphene  
Customisation

Scale-up

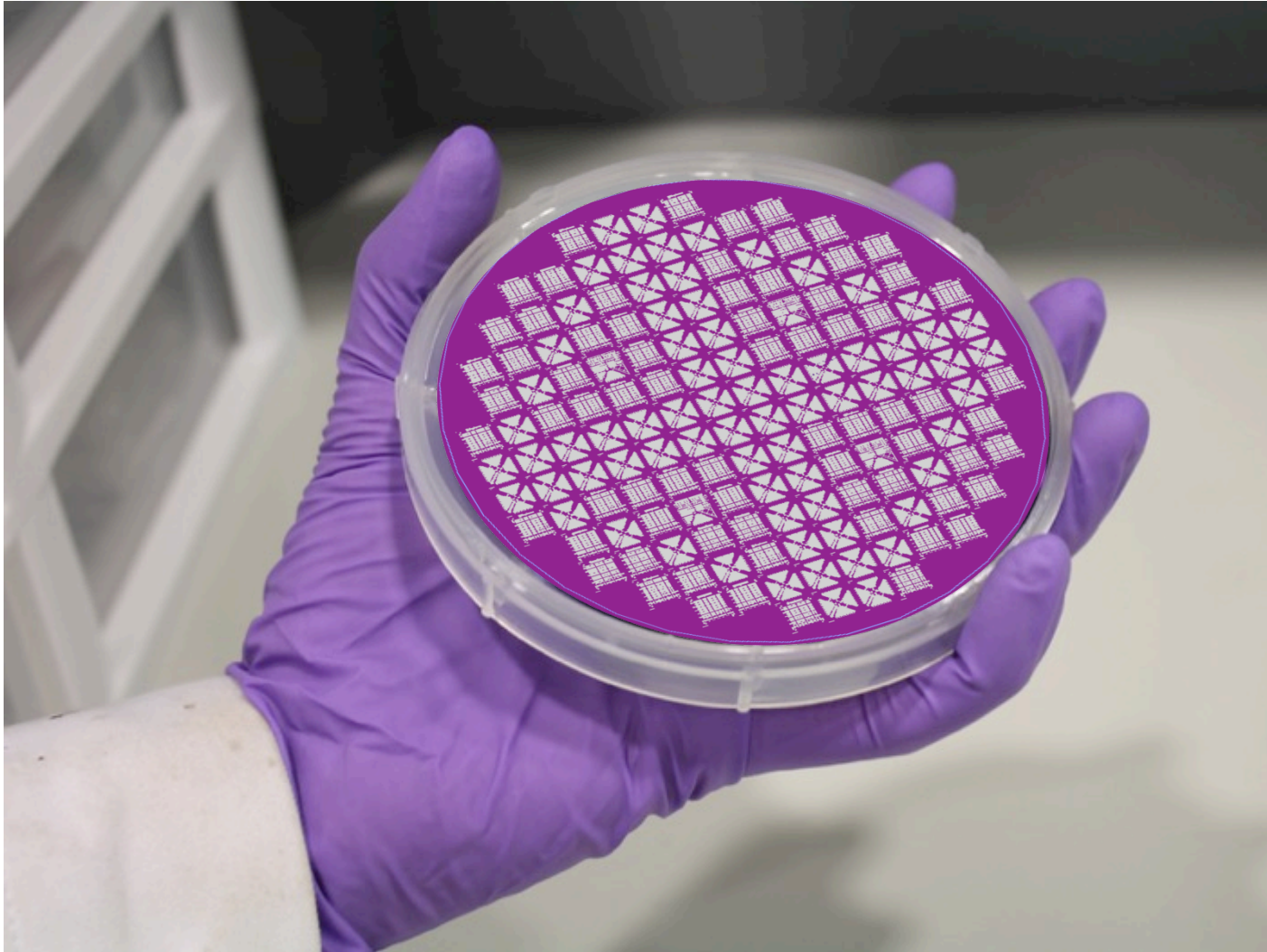
Integration

# Integration Opportunities - GFET platform

## Strategy to aid graphene integration into commercial products

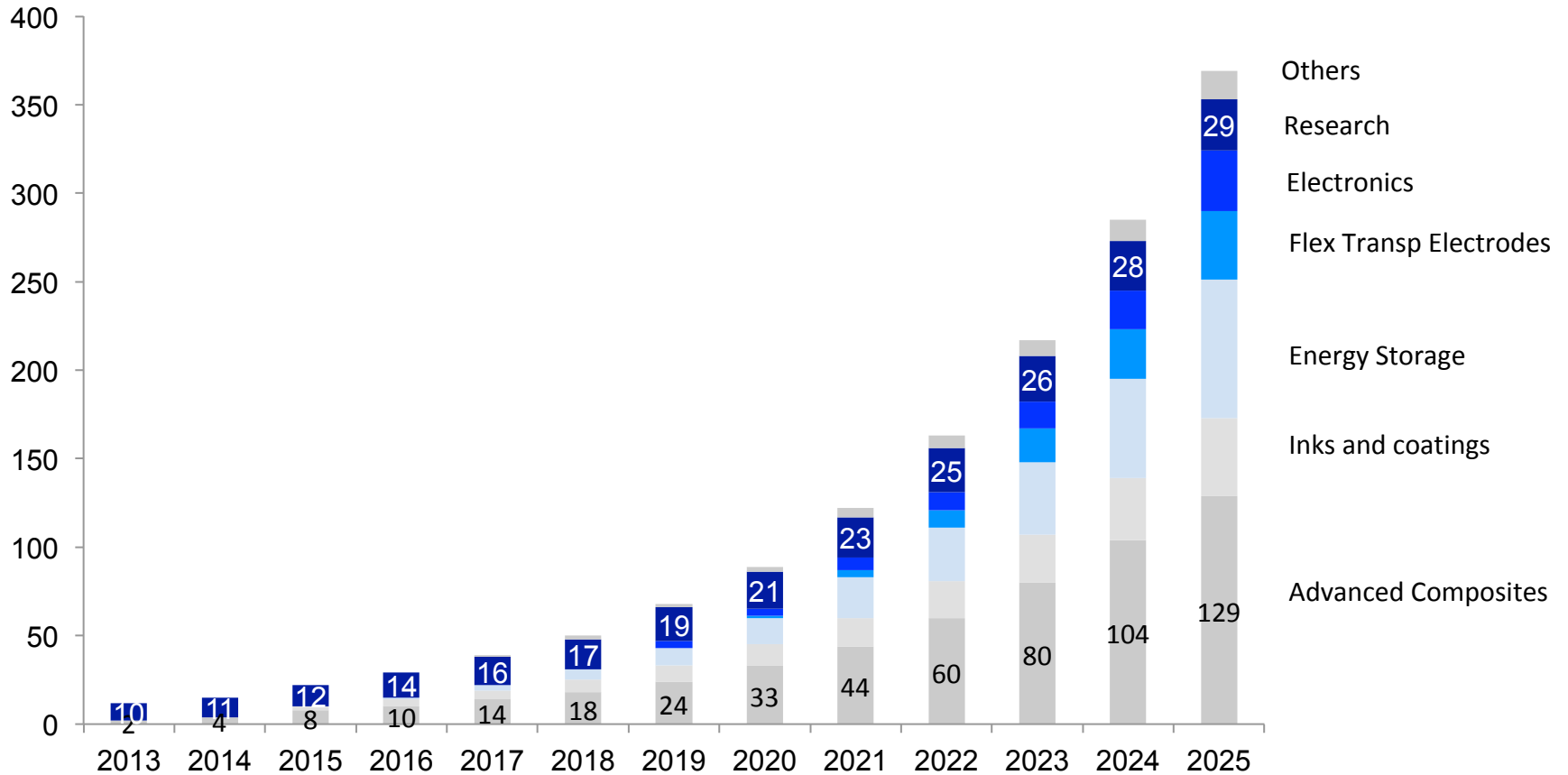
- Semiconductor industry not interested in few thousand wafers market – fill gap in value chain
- Commercialise GFET wafers
- Targeted markets: biosensors, sensors (photosensors), etc.

# GFET platform



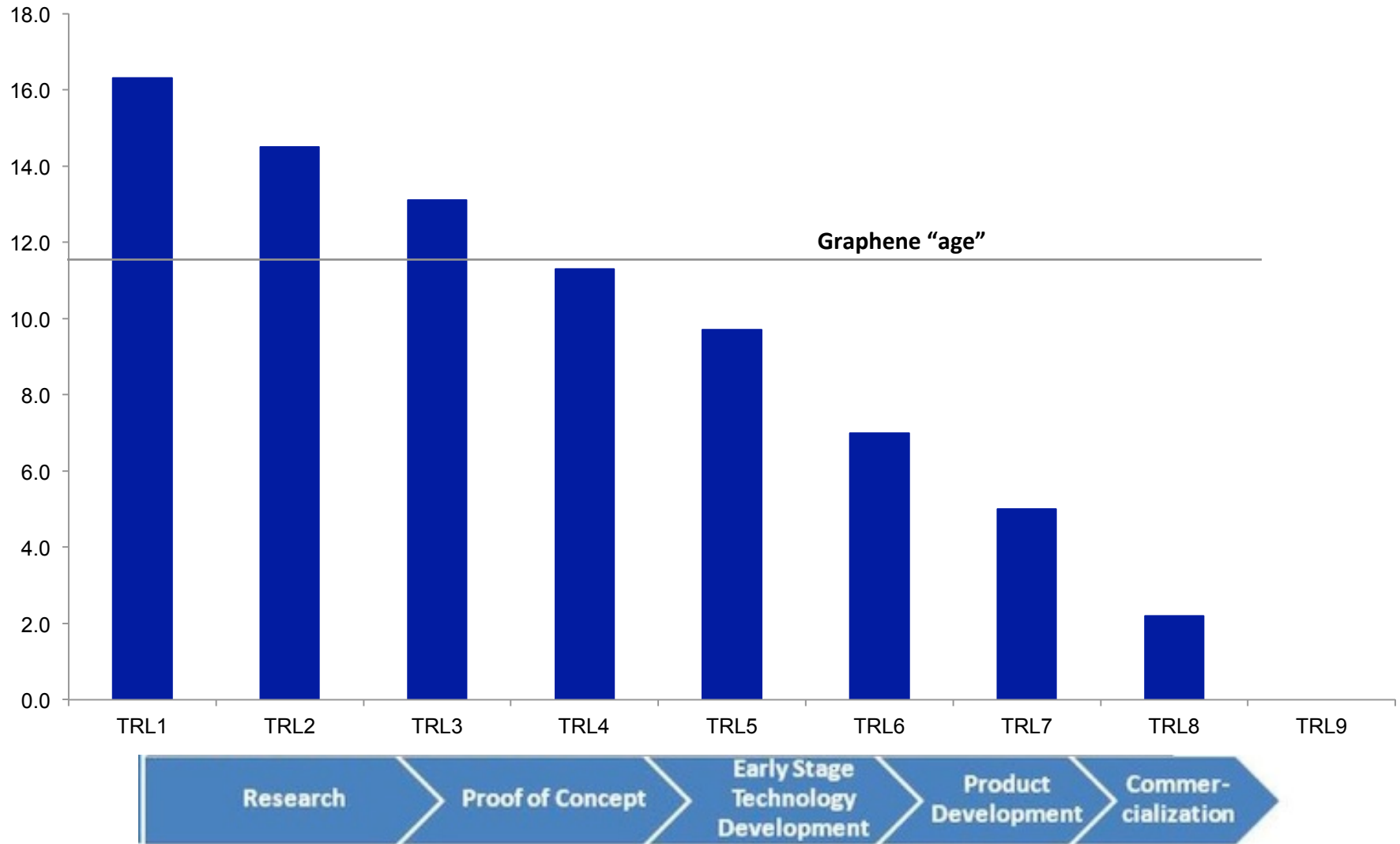
Graphene market is very small and driven by Research-related demand

**Global Graphene market forecast (\$M)**



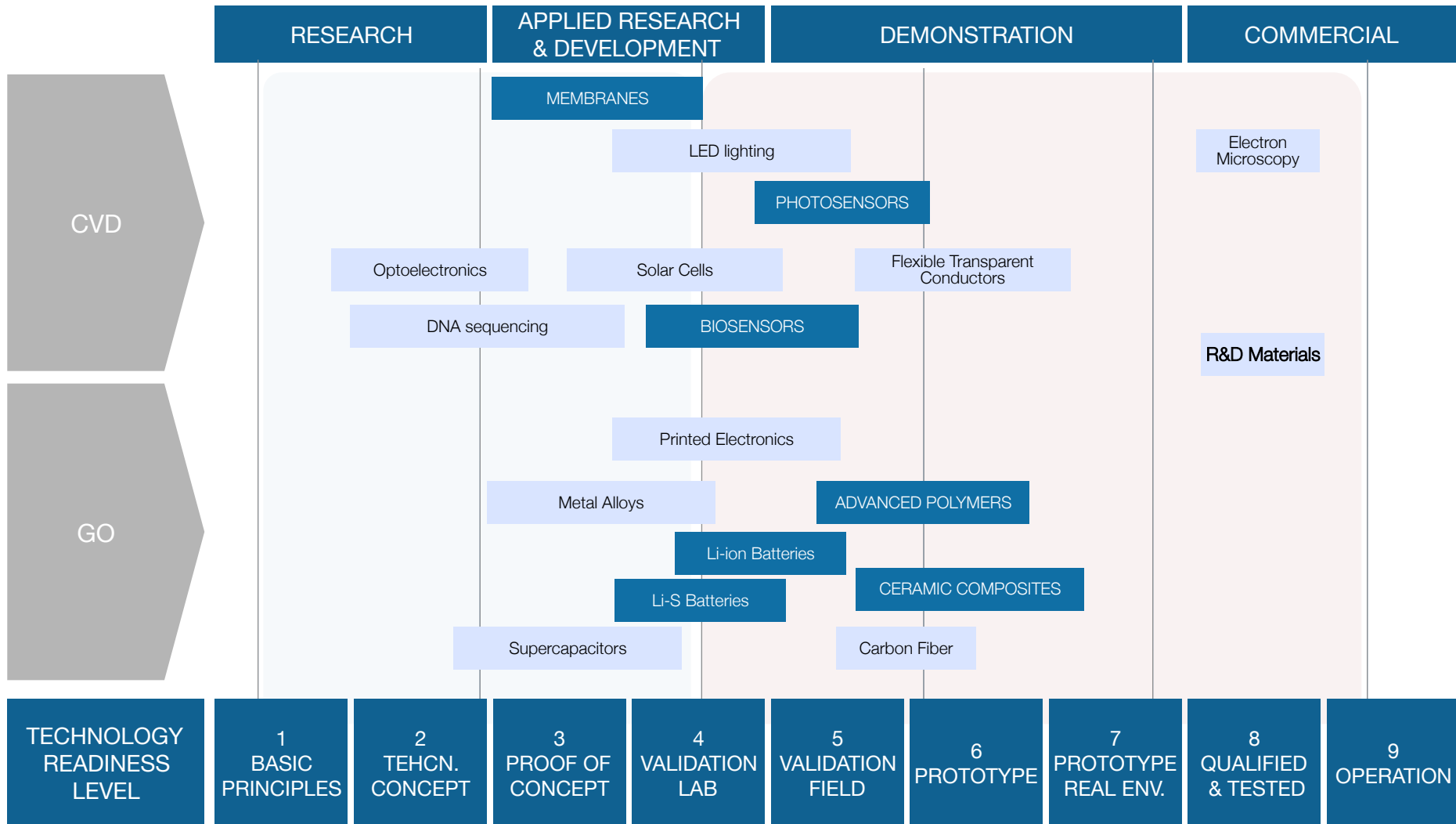
Source: Graphenea estimations

# Time to market – Aerospace industry





Each application requires a specific type and grade of graphene



Illustrative TRL application map

# Advanced materials that needed $> 20$ yrs

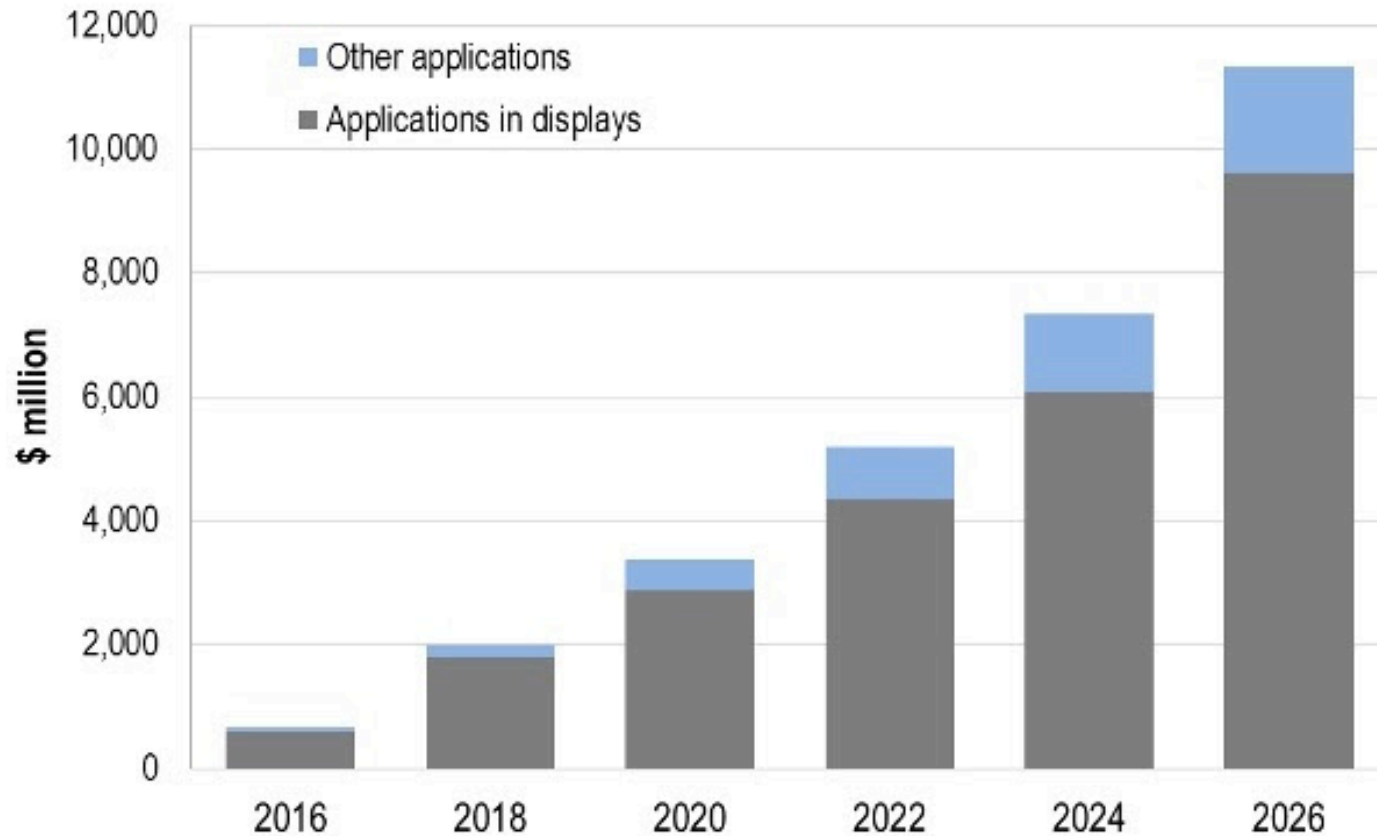
- ✓ Silicon
- ✓ Carbon fibre
- ✓ Fluorescent lamp
- ✓ Liquid crystals
- ✓ Kevlar
- ✓ PVC
- ✓ PE



*Bell Labs 1947*



# Quantum dots - How things can change dramatically



# Conclusions

- ✓ Customised graphene material is required for each specific application
- ✓ Many technological challenges still remain
- ✓ Many diverse multifunctional prototypes have been successfully fabricated
- ✓ We hope graphene will be a success story – similar to QDs