

Funding graphene research in the European Research Area

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The European Union and its Member States will be confronted in the coming decades with growing challenges: the new industrial and trade situations, pressure on supplies and energy security, climate change, technological revolutions, increased ageing of the population, internal migrations and the availability of critical raw materials, to mention only a few.

Materials research has an essential role in supporting development of competitive and sustainable economic growth in Europe: the globalisations of the markets and the increasing complex needs of society demand improved industrial processes and products with better service performance, quality, reliability, durability, specific functionalities and end-of-life destiny.

The European Commission promotes research in materials science and engineering. The EU 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) is currently supporting research actions to overcome scientific, technological and related bottlenecks, provoking or facilitating new ideas that can give Europe a competitive advantage internationally in the forthcoming years.

One of the very important materials to have appeared on the scene in recent years is graphene; this talk concerns the funding of graphene-related research projects under FP7, as well as associated European programmes – the current state of play and outlooks for the future