

A Conference to be held at the Barcelona International Convention Centre (March 28-31):

The Graphene 2017 Conference connects Barcelona with the international graphene-based industry

- *This prestigious event aims to bring together academia and industry to integrate new graphene technologies into practical applications.*
- *More than 250 speakers will summarise the latest graphene-based achievements, including the Nobel Prize laureates **Andre Geim** and **Albert Fert**.*
- *ICFO and ICN2 are the local organisers of this event gathering in Barcelona around 1000 graphene experts from around the world.*

Barcelona, Thursday March 16 2017.

This past February, Graphene shone at the Mobile World Congress 2017, exhibiting real prototypes and demonstrations to more than 108.000 visitors by different academic institutions and companies that aimed at highlighting the amazing potential this 2D material could have in mobile innovation and technologies in general.

Underscoring the wealth of graphene research and development activity taking place in the Barcelona area, the 7th edition of [Graphene Conference](#) will now take place from the 28th until the 31st of March 2017 at the Barcelona International Convention Center (CCIB). This is the world's largest graphene conference, bringing together both scientists and industry to work towards integrating new graphene technologies into current applications. Mr. **Francesc Subirada**, General Director for Research of the Catalan Ministry of Business and Knowledge, will participate in the event Opening.

ICN2- the Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology and ICFO- the Institute of Photonic Sciences are the scientific organizers of the Graphene Conference 2017. Both research centers, founding members of BIST- the Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, are world renowned for their expertise in graphene and 2D materials research and graphene related technologies. In addition, the event organizing committee includes experts from UCL – Université Catholique de Louvain and IIT – Italian Institute of Technology. The event main organizer, Phantoms Foundation, began organizing these series of events in 2011 and since then has brought together more than 3500 participants from over 60 countries.

During this 4 day-long conference, around 1000 attendees will have the opportunity to listen to approximately 100 prestigious keynote and invited talks, more than 150 oral presentations and around 400 posters will be presented. The event also creates many networking opportunities for future collaborations. The top class speakers will include Prof. **Albert Fert**, awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2007 for the discovery of giant magnetoresistance, and Prof. **Andre Geim**, awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2010 for his ground-breaking experiments regarding the two-dimensional material graphene.

A special focus on industry and knowledge transfer

Research and industrial communities around the world are ambitiously racing to uncover commercial applications for graphene. There is no known material that is thinner or more lightweight, and its

resistance, flexibility and conductive properties are second to none; we are only just beginning to understand its potential for technological fields such as data communications, internet of things, health, displays, and energy.

For this reason, the general conference includes two parallel events focused on industry and knowledge transfer. Firstly, the conference will include an Industrial Forum running in parallel on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th aimed at connecting the academic world with industry to discuss the latest advances in graphene-based technologies as well as market opportunities for this material. Secondly, on March 31st, there will be a Brokerage event promoting one-to-one meetings, aiming to encourage companies, universities and research centers to foster technical cooperation in the field.

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit the exhibition area and interact with both local and international participants, including booths where companies and research institutes like ICN2 and ICFO will be presenting their graphene-based technologies. Among the exhibitors (nearly 60), visitors will find Pavilions devoted to initiatives from as far away as Canada, Malaysia and China participating in this conference with a global impact.

ICREA Prof. **Stephan Roche**, group leader at ICN2, highlights that “thanks to its innovative companies, its excellent research and a firm support from its institutions, Catalonia is in a good position to lead the European efforts to expand the graphene-based industry. Celebrating the Graphene Conference in Barcelona is a new step forward.”

ICREA Prof. at ICFO **Frank Koppens**, group leader at ICFO, states “Science and innovation, merged in one conference, that is when magic happens. All the main players of the entire world come to this event. As ideas have now turned into exciting product prototypes, we are at the tipping point to see this new technology turn into large-scale commercialization.”

For more information, please contact:

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About ICN2

ICN2 – The Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, member of The Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology (BIST), devotes its research to the behaviour of matter at the nanoscale. It creates basic knowledge and develops devices in areas such as Life Sciences (medicine, health, and environment), Energy and Information and Communications Technologies. This frontier research has enormous potential to change everyday life.

With over 200 members, ICN2 promotes multidisciplinary R&D and collaboration among scientists from diverse backgrounds, industry and society. This transversal approach is one of the reasons why the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness acknowledged the Institute in 2014 as a Severo Ochoa Excellence Center to develop a Program on "Nanodevices for Social Challenges". The research led from ICN2 made possible, only in 2016, 3 patent licensing agreements and 3 new spin-off companies.

About ICFO

ICFO - The Institute of Photonic Sciences, member of The Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, is a research center located in a specially designed, 14.000 m²-building situated in the Mediterranean Technology Park in the metropolitan area of Barcelona. It currently hosts 400 people, including research group leaders, post-doctoral researchers, PhD students, research engineers, and staff. ICFOians are organized in 27 research groups working in 60 state-of-the-art research laboratories, equipped with the latest experimental facilities and supported by a range of cutting-edge facilities for nanofabrication, characterization, imaging and engineering.

The Severo Ochoa distinction awarded by the Ministry of Science and Innovation, as well as 14 ICREA Professorships, 25 European Research Council grants and 6 Fundació Cellex Barcelona Nest Fellowships, demonstrate the centre's dedication to research excellence, as does the institute's consistent appearance in top worldwide positions in international rankings. From an industrial standpoint, ICFO participates actively in the European Technological Platform Photonics²¹ and is also very proactive in fostering entrepreneurial activities and spin-off creation. The center participates in incubator activities and seeks to attract venture capital investment. ICFO hosts an active Corporate Liaison Program that aims at creating collaborations and links between industry and ICFO researchers. To date, ICFO has created 5 successful start-up companies.