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#### Contents



- Introduction to First Graphene Ltd.
- Graphene supply and routes to graphene materials
- Importance of both standardisation and product quality
- Emerging applications in the automotive sector composites, elastomers, fire retardancy and thermal management

First Graphene Ltd. is publicly listed in Australia (ASX:FGR) and has a primary manufacturing base in Henderson, near Perth, WA. The company was recently incorporated in the UK as First Graphene UK Ltd. and is a Tier 1 partner at the Graphene Engineering and Innovation Centre (GEIC), Manchester, UK.

# **GRAPHENE MARKET**

**OVERVIEW** 



- Graphene, discovered in 2004, is the <u>thinnest</u>, <u>strongest</u>, <u>most flexible</u>, <u>best barrier</u>, <u>most transparent</u>, <u>most conductive</u> (thermal & electrical) material ever isolated.
- Graphene is forecast to create a >\$300million materials market by 2022<sup>1</sup> and enable downstream \$billion markets in transportation, construction, industrial products, energy storage and electronics.
- Graphene powders are typically added to other systems to provide <u>new</u> properties not previously available or enhance the existing properties to <u>new</u> levels.
- To deliver success in the graphene sector, a supplier must have a robust manufacturing platform, competitive cost structure and the capability to drive adoption through downstream investment and partnering<sup>2</sup>.

### FIRST GRAPHENE

.....leading the commercialisation of graphene



**Established Supply** 

Low capital costs

Best quality product

**Commercial traction** 

Strong partnerships

- Fully operational plant with capacity of 100 tonne/year.
- Secure raw material supply and robust process.
- REACH registration in place
- Low capital cost and short build time.
- Expansion of capacity to support global markets is straightforward.
- High performing and easy to use products.
- · Competitive pricing.
- Commercial progress in high volume applications.
- Sales contracting in progress and case studies emerging.
- Tier 1 partner at Graphene Centre (GEIC), Manchester.
- Raw material supplier to University of Manchester programmes.

# MANY ROUTES TO GRAPHENE ADDITIVES

..typically by exfoliation of graphite





#### **Graphite Oxidation**

 Oxidation/Reduction with strong oxidising agents then reduction (to rGO)

#### **Graphite exfoliation**

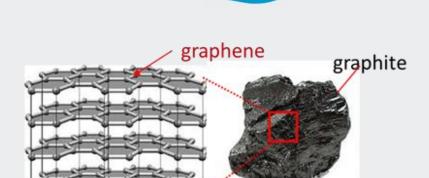
- Mechanical attrition milling, microfluidisers, homogenisers
- Plasma & heat energy plasma, DBD, flame and micro-wave
- Ultrasonic exfoliation by cavitation
- Electrochemical exfoliation ion intercalation by electrical potential

Material characteristics will depend upon manufacturing method used.

Need for high performance analytical testing and quality control....which will enable industry standardisation.

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Electrochemical exfoliation is the preferred method of First Graphene Ltd.

Scalable – Robust – Consistent – yielding high aspect ratio products

# MANUFACTURING AND SUPPLY PLATFORM

Secure, established, robust and consistent



#### Secure

- Captive supply of graphite from Sri Lanka.
- 99.5% carbon ore used directly from the ground.
- Right format for exfoliation.
- 5-year stock in-house (at 100tpa).

#### **Established**

- Single step high yield electrochemical exfoliation.
- >90% conversion from graphite ore to PureGRAPH™ products.
- 100 tonne/yr capacity installed today
- Low capital cost & short build time.



#### **Robust**

- Scaled finishing and drying steps.
- Proven industrial process tools.
- Controlled product sizes of PureGRAPH™
- Leading edge quality control

#### Consistent

- Proven supply and logistics expertise.
- Fully compliant safety data.
- REACH registration in place.
- NICNAS submitted & EPA in progress.



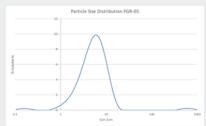
# BEST QUALITY PRODUCTS:

#### **PureGRAPHTM**

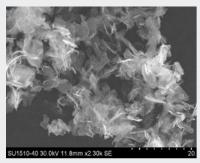
Consistent, high performing and easy to use



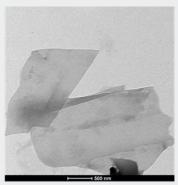
- PureGRAPH™ are graphene nano-platelets with low defects and high sp<sup>2</sup> carbon levels.
- High aspect ratio platelets with high levels of few layer graphene primary particles.
- PureGRAPH™ powders have well controlled particle sizes at 5µm, 10µm and 20µm for consistent and repeatable performance.
- PureGRAPH™ powders disperse readily and easily in solvents, polymer resins, rubber and water based formulations.
- High purity carbon materials with <0.3% total metals and <1 ppm silicon contaminants.</p>



PureGRAPH™ 5 Malvern Mastersizer analysis showing D<sub>v</sub>(50) = 5µm and D<sub>v</sub>(90) = 11µm i.e. no large particle tail is present. Laser light scattering is used as a powder size quality control tool. PureGRAPH™ products have very reproducible D<sub>v</sub>(50) and D<sub>v</sub>(90)



PureGRAPH™ 5 Scanning Electron Microscopy (scale bar = 20µm): This analysis of dried product powder shows aggregated powders of high aspect ratio graphene platelets. These particles disperse readily in solvent and polymer media.



PureGRAPH™ 5 Transmission electron microscopy (scale bar = 500nm): PureGRAPH™5 product dispersed in solvent prior to analysis by TEM. The analysis shows few layer graphene (FLG) platelets are present with typical sizes up to 3 $\mu$ m.

# **BEST QUALITY PRODUCTS:**

#### **PureGRAPH™**

Bulk Quality – What's in the bag?



First Graphene uses a combination of at-line and laboratory analysis to ensure PureGRAPH<sup>TM</sup> product quality.

# PureGRAPH™ 5 At-line analysis Malvern Mastersizer is used to monitor the average particle size¹ of PureGRAPH™ powders. Ensuring tight control of particle size dispersity in PureGRAPH™ powders. Raman spectroscopy:

			Rama	in Spect	rum FGR	1-05				
12000										
10000										
8000										
6000										
4000			-/\					-/	1	
2000		$\wedge$	$/ \setminus$				_			-
1000	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000
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Raman spectroscopy – using a novel bulk powder sampling technique<sup>2</sup>.

Ensuring low defect levels in the sp<sup>2</sup> basal plane and graphene conversion.

PureGRAPH™ 5 Bulk Properties							
Particle size distribution (PSD)	Malvern Mastersizer	Dv(50) = 5.6 μm Dv(90) = 12.5 μm					
I <sub>D</sub> /I <sub>G</sub>	Raman	0.17					
Graphitic content	Raman	None detected					
Total oxygen	Elemental analysis	1.4% w/w					
Total metals	ICP	0.3% w/w					
Total silicon	ICP	< 1ppm					
Tapped Density	ASTM D7481	0.062 gcm <sup>-3</sup>					

- 1. Malvern Mastersizer 3000 using standard Mie theory
- 2. IRDG 222 Meeting and Poster Session, 20th December 2018, UCL, London

# **BEST QUALITY PRODUCTS:**

**PureGRAPHTM** 

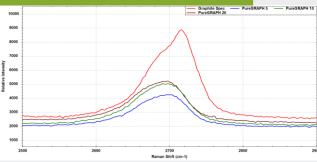
Graphene Nanoplatelet Quality

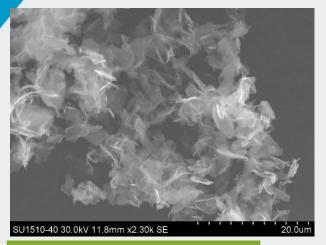
#### Raman 2D band analysis:

- 2D band provides information on number of sp<sup>2</sup> layers.
- Published literature<sup>1</sup> states that absence of graphitic band indicates < ca. 5 carbon layer.
- Bulk powder sampling method used<sup>2</sup>.

#### **Conclusion:**

Average GNP thickness is < 10 layers





# Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM): PureGRAPH™ 5

- SEM analysis of PureGRAPH™ powders.
- Direct analysis of secondary powder particles.

#### Conclusion:

High aspect ratio GNP particles with little agglomeration.
Sizes correlate well with PSD data.

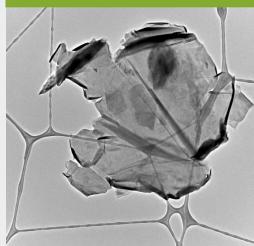


# <u>Transmission Electron</u> <u>Microscopy (TEM):</u> PureGRAPH™ 5

- Analysis to NPL best practice guide<sup>3</sup> which isolates primary particles.
- TEM shows high content of Few Layer Graphene(FLG) platelets.
- As expected there is a range of platelet diameters.
- Example shown is a 4 um FLG showing smaller < 1 um FLGs</li>

#### Conclusion:

Product contains high levels of FLGs.



- 1. Ferrari, A. C. et al. Raman spectrum of graphene and graphene layers. Phys. Rev. Lett. 97, 187401, (2006).
- 2. IRDG 222 Meeting and Poster Session, 20th December 2018, UCL, London
- 3. National Physical Laboratory Good Practice Guide 145

Benefits of PureGRAPH™ Additives

# **INDUSTRIAL COMPOSITES**

Light-weighting and water resistance



Benefits of using **PureGRAPH™** graphene additive in composites:

- Increased strength (> 30%)
- Light-weighting (> 25%)
- Increased water resistance
- Increased electrical & thermal conductivity
- Simplified manufacture
- Reduced cost



# **ELASTOMERS**

Wear Liners – Mining and mineral handling Industries



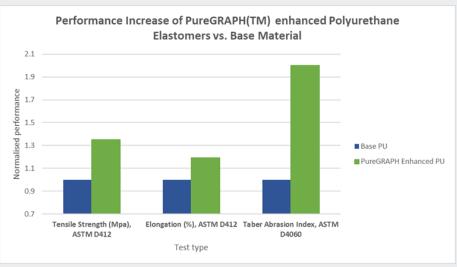
- Easily dispersed
- Increased strength
- Supreme abrasion resistance
- Increased electrical & thermal

conductivity









# FIRE RETARDANCY

FireStop™ Paint/Coating



Benefits of using **PureGRAPH™** graphene additive:

- Self-extinguishing
- Prolongs structural integrity
- Suppression of toxic and flammable volatiles
- Environmentally friendly compared with existing FR solutions



FireStop™ timber coating
UL94=V0 and LOI = >40 on balsa.

# CONSTRUCTION

Stronger, lighter, greener concrete



Benefits of using **PureGRAPH™** graphene additive:

- Stronger and lighter concrete structures<sup>1</sup>
  - +34% in compressive strength
  - +27% in tensile strength
- Reduction in material usage and carbon footprint caused by cementbased products
- Reduced water permeability for increased longevity of concrete structures





# THERMAL MANAGEMENT

With Flexegraph



Benefits of using **PureGRAPH™** graphene additives:

- Reduced charging times
- Extended battery life
- Thermal runaway prevention
- Enhanced charging in cold climates



# FIRST GRAPHENE SUMMARY



First Graphene offers customers a secure and consistent supply of high performing PureGRAPH™ additives.

PureGRAPH™ products are low-defect, high aspect ratio graphene nanopatelets with high levels of Few Layer Graphenes.

PureGRAPH™ have proven performance in industrial composites, elastomers, fire retardancy and concrete.

Supply chain is established at 100 tonne/year and PureGRAPH™ product registration is in place in Europe and in progress in Australia and USA.

<u>Please stop by and visit our exhibit if you have further questions.</u>

