

# Graphene 2014: Natural vs synthetic graphene: cost, quality and competition

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There are many types of 'graphene' emerging from laboratories towards commercial uses, produced via a variety of methods and yielding divergent properties and apparent value. A key issue for those hoping to make graphene from mined graphite is understanding the differences between natural graphite-route graphene and synthetically produced material.

Since graphene was first isolated from graphite by researchers at the University of Manchester, UK, in 2003 and their findings were published in 2004, scientific interest in this space has snowballed. While much of the excitement rests on graphene's apparently endless list of potentially revolutionary uses, on the production side,...