



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Audiovisual Services

Extracts from the press conference by Nellie Kroes on the announcement of winners of the Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) projects

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On 28 January 2013, Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the EC in charge of the Digital Agenda, announced the winners of a multi-billion euro competition of Future and Emerging Technologies (FET). The winning Graphene and Human Brain initiatives are set to receive one billion euro each, to deliver 10 years of world-beating science at the crossroads of science and technology. Each initiative involves researchers from at least 15 EU Member States and nearly 200 research institutes. "Graphene" will investigate and exploit the unique properties of a revolutionary carbon-based material. Graphene is an extraordinary combination of physical and chemical properties: it is the thinnest material, it conducts electricity much better than copper, it is 100-300 times stronger than steel and it has unique optical properties. The use of Graphene was made possible by European scientists in 2004, and the substance is set to become the wonder material of the 21st century, as plastics were to the 20th century, including by replacing silicon in ICT products. The "Human Brain Project" will create the world's largest experimental facility for developing the most detailed model of the brain, for studying how the human brain works and ultimately to develop personalised treatment of neurological and related diseases. This research lays the scientific and technical foundations for medical progress that has the potential to will dramatically improve the quality of life for millions of Europeans. The European Commission will support "Graphene" and the "Human Brain Project" as FET "flagships" over 10 years through its research and innovation funding programmes. Sustained funding for the full duration of the project will come from the EU's research framework programmes, principally from the Horizon 2020 programme (2014-2020).

[Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.](#)

TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
10:00:00	Title	00:00:05
10:00:05	Arrival of Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the EC in charge of the Digital Agenda, in the press room	00:00:03
10:00:08	SOUNDBITE by Neelie Kroes (in ENGLISH) saying that it is an important day for European science, for the position of Europe in the world, where the EC announces the biggest research cash award ever, one billion euro each for two excellent projects.	00:00:23
10:00:31	Cutaway of cameraman	00:00:04
10:00:36	SOUNDBITE by Neelie Kroes (in ENGLISH) saying that one of the two winners is for research into Graphene. SOUNDBITE by Jari Kinaret, Professor at the Chalmers University of Technology of Gothenburg and Project Leader of Graphene-Coordinated Action, (in ENGLISH) showing an example of Graphene produced in the EU - in Cambridge, UK; saying that this is a starting point for Graphene based electronics. (5 shots)	00:00:52

10:01:29	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:06
10:01:35	SOUNDBITE by Neelie Kroes (in ENGLISH) on the Human Brain project: saying that this project will help find new ways to diagnose and treat brain conditions, even opening the door to a new kind of computer, a computer that links and 'thinks' and works the way we do; congratulating Henry Markram, Professor at the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and Leader of the Human Brain project. (3 shots)	00:00:39
10:02:14	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:05
10:02:20	SOUNDBITE by Henry Markram (in ENGLISH) saying that this computing system will allow to build very detailed brain models on super computers, simplify parts of them and print them on silicon in order to capture some fundamental features of the brain. (2 shots)	00:00:27
10:02:48	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:06
10:02:54	SOUNDBITE by Neelie Kroes (in ENGLISH) saying that the 80 billion euro the EC has proposed for Horizon 2020, the next framework programme for research and innovation, this investment is an economic imperative; saying that she hopes that Member States will do the right thing, for Europe's future, when discussing the Union's budget the following week.	00:00:24
10:03:19	Neelie Kroes leaving	00:00:15