

ASX Announcement

Provisional Patent Lodged for Graphene Manufacturing Process

14 March 2017



New Provisional Patent Application

First Graphite (ASX: FGR) advises it has lodged a new provisional patent application covering its equipment and/or methodology for use in producing graphene from graphite.

The patent application covers technology used in the Company's graphene cell.

As the market is aware, the Company's graphene production process has been the subject of much activity in the last two years, from the initial research work at the University of Adelaide in late 2015 through to the development of a full scale production cell.

The benefits the Company sees in the application of its process include reductions in the capital and operating cost to produce graphene. The use of high grade Sri Lankan graphite in the process is critical to the reduction of the operating cost and increased yield of high quality graphene product.

Managing Director Craig McGuckin stated *"The Company is in the business of developing and commercialising innovative and disruptive technologies utilising graphene. This provisional patent application builds on the development work being undertaken by the Company."*

Patent Application Process

To obtain patent protection, it is ultimately necessary for an application to be filed with a Patent Office in each country where protection is to be sought. However, International conventions exist which enable applications to be initially filed in a single country, with subsequent applications being filed individually in each country within a defined time limit.

For example, the Paris Convention provides a mechanism which allows patent applications to be filed to cover additional countries within 12 months of the date of lodging a first patent application in Australia. Thus, one or more provisional patent applications can be filed in Australia, and then subsequent applications can be filed covering other countries within 12 months of the earliest provisional application, in a process known as claiming priority.

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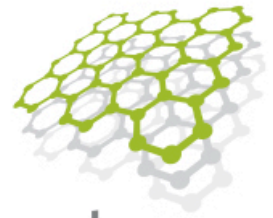
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first graphite

A high-quality graphene producer

The subsequent applications can be separate applications in each country of interest. Alternatively, a single International Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) application can be filed covering a number of contracting states. The PCT application does not ultimately get granted as a patent, but rather allows the filing of national patent applications in individual countries to be deferred up to a set date, typically 30 months from the filing date of the first patent application, such as the first provisional patent application.

Once filed, the International (PCT) application undergoes an assessment process, in which a designated patent office performs a search and issues an International Search Report and associated International Search Opinion, providing a preliminary view on whether the patent application meets novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability requirements. Responses to the International Search Opinion can be optionally filed during a subsequent examination process, before an International Preliminary Report on Patentability issues, providing an opinion of patentability.

It should be noted however the outcome of this process is not binding and subsequent assessment is typically performed by patent offices in each country, after individual national patent applications have been filed. In this regard, each country will typically perform an independent search, and then assess whether the patent application meets the patentability requirements, additionally taking into account their own local law.

Whilst most countries require a local patent application to be filed, in some cases regional patent applications can be filed covering a group of individual countries. For example, a European patent application can be filed, which can allow subsequent patents to be granted in up to 38 countries.

Assuming any objections are overcome, the patent application can then be granted allowing this to be subsequently enforced to prevent third parties exploiting the invention. Patent rights can be assigned or can be licensed on an exclusive or non-exclusive basis.

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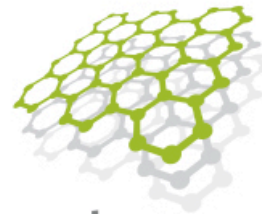
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About First Graphite Ltd (ASX: FGR)

First Graphite produces high quality graphene from high grade Sri Lankan vein graphite.

First Graphite seeks to develop graphene production methods and acquire graphene related intellectual property which can provide further revenue related opportunities.

About Graphene

Graphene, the well-publicised and now famous two-dimensional carbon allotrope, is as versatile a material as any discovered on Earth. Its amazing properties as the lightest and strongest material, compared with its ability to conduct heat and electricity better than anything else, mean it can be integrated into a huge number of applications. Initially this will mean graphene is used to help improve the performance and efficiency of current materials and substances, but in the future it will also be developed in conjunction with other two-dimensional (2D) crystals to create some even more amazing compounds to suit an even wider range of applications.

One area of research which is being very highly studied is energy storage. Currently, scientists are working on enhancing the capabilities of lithium ion batteries (by incorporating graphene as an anode) to offer much higher storage capacities with much better longevity and charge rate. Also, graphene is being studied and developed to be used in the manufacture of supercapacitors which are able to be charged very quickly, yet also be able to store a large amount of electricity.

Nature of vein graphite

Sri Lankan graphite deposition model is best described from the 'bottom up': tension fractures formed in the metamorphic sediments, caused by the folding of the sediments, creating 'conduits' for the hydrothermal deposition of high quality vein graphite. Historically, mining of these veins has found the veins generally increase in thickness and grade quality with increasing depth.

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