

Transforming the study of advanced materials through commercial development of a novel imaging detector

Dr Damien McGrouther

Materials & Condensed Matter Physics
School of Physics & Astronomy

damien.mcgrouter@glasgow.ac.uk





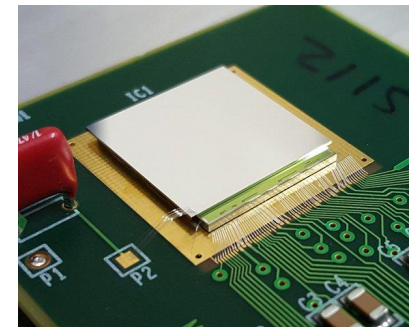
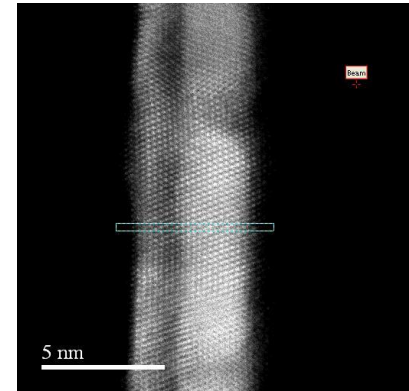
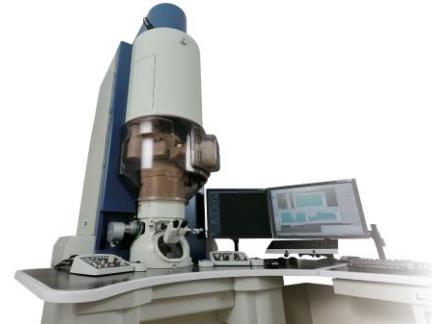
University
of Glasgow

Identifying a new market opportunity for CERN technology

- Commercialisation driven from academia
- Collaborating with



- My research:
 - Investigating future technological materials
 - Using Transmission Electron Microscopes (TEMs)
 - Exploitation of new Hybrid Pixel Detectors from CERN for novel imaging
- EPSRC research grant funded development of a lab prototype detector
- Transformative capabilities -> disruptive potential

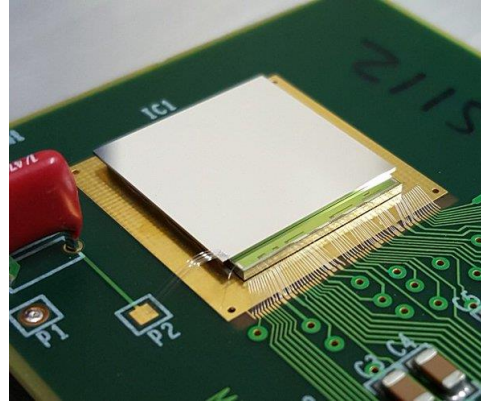
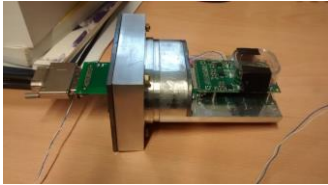


Kelvin Nanocharacterisation Centre

Current development

Medipix3

Co-developed by **Particle Physics Group** @ Glasgow
V. O'Shea, D. Maneuski



Materials & Condensed Matter Physics Group, D. McGrouther, M. Perreux-Lloyd*
Medipix3 - transformative electron microscopy detector



Hi-speed readout system for CERN Medipix3 QD selling into X-ray synchrotron marketplace
New entry into high value Electron Microscopy market with GU designed product



Kelvin Nanocharacterisation Centre

- TEM instruments cost £1-4M
- >10,000 worldwide in academia and high-tech industries (e.g. semiconductor, data storage, life sciences)
- Market dominated by 3 large manufacturers
- Add-on detectors cost 5-10% of instrument price

ThermoFisher
S C I E N T I F I C

HITACHI
Inspire the Next

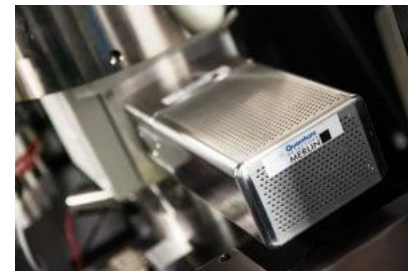
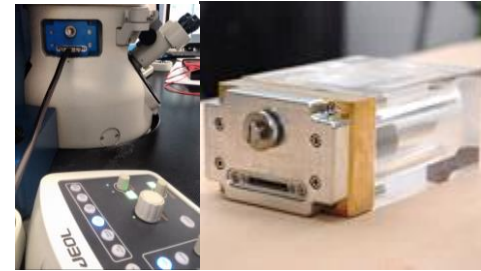
JEOL





De-risking commercial development

-  a small company, initially 4 staff
- UoG support – EPSRC Impact Acceleration Funding
- 3 rounds totalling **£101k**
 - Development of a technology demonstrator
 - Development of first commercial design and prototypes
 - Adaptable to widest range of TEMs across all manufacturers
 - Development timescale: 18 months!!
- Technology access and impact for 
 - Royalty based licensing of designs and knowhow IP from UoG
 - Access to leading academic knowledge and expertise
 - Rapid worldwide sales uptake – 10 detectors to date (**revenue >£1M**)
 - Predicting >5 units per annum
 - Growth in staff to 9 people
 - Now participating in OEM approval processes
 - Emerging opportunities with other small ad-on manufacturers



- Advantages:
 - Access to leading multi-disciplinary expertise
 - Agility in development through access to specialist facilities
 - De-risking through financial support for “Impact”
 - Academic publications
- Challenges:
 - Organisational hurdles within the academic institution
 - Costs of direct industrial support
 - Expectations from industry collaborator
 - Pressured timelines / teaching & research
 - Defined Knowledge Transfer stage