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Architecture responds to Science: University of Manchester's new National Graphene Institute

The session will focus on how architecture responds to the needs of scientific development and the role that a building such as the newly-opened National Graphene Institute (NGI) at the University of Manchester can play in providing world-class facilities to support scientists and academics in their research work.

Ultimately, well-designed facilities have the potential to enhance researchers' working environments and maximise their achievements in scientific advancements. Striking architecture can also help to communicate the quality and vision of the research being undertaken and in so doing enhance the impression and public perception of the enterprise.

The presentation will underline the importance of a close collaboration between key researchers, engineers and architects throughout the building design process, in order to ensure a complete understanding of the client's requirements and attaining an outcome

that meets and surpasses the stringent technical performance envisaged.

It will examine how creating spaces that support workers from different specialisations, disciplines and fields, while achieving the level of necessary privacy, provides an indispensable sense of community to the research environment.

The session will also explore the importance of flexibility and adaptability in designing scientific facilities, in order to create research spaces that accommodate essential process and equipment, and, at the same time, are flexible enough to easily adapt to future research directions and requirements.

