
Graphene Startup Paragraf Threatens US Move Due to Government Semiconductor Failings

2022-09-01

The CEO and co-founder of Paragraf, a British startup commercialising graphene-based electronics, has threatened to move its base to the US due to the lack of a government semiconductor strategy and challenges attracting talent post-Brexit.

“The [UK](#)’s delay in deciding a semiconductor strategy, and time that is wasted waiting on clarity from the government, increases pressure on companies that are being courted by alternative locations,” Paragraf chief Simon Thomas told UKTN.

“Paragraf has always regarded offshoring as a last resort. We remain hopeful that government will invest in reducing barriers, both to attracting talent and to developing the high-tech manufacturing infrastructure we require.”

It comes as Thomas told The Times that the [UK](#) government “doesn’t know what it’s doing” and said there was not enough support for university spinouts.

Graphene has been hailed as a “wonder material” because of its unique properties. It is highly conductive, able to withstand extreme levels of electricity and balances strength with flexibility.

[Paragraf](#) formed as a spinout from the Department of Materials Science at [Cambridge University](#) in 2015 and has developed a method to use graphene as a base for semiconductors.

It has raised more than \$85m in funding, with \$60m of that coming in a Series B funding

round in March to scale up its international growth. It has received government backing via the Future Fund: Breakthrough scheme.

Its primary products, the graphene hall effect sensor range, are used in a vast array of industries including aerospace, healthcare and quantum computing.

“I know three quantum computing companies saying this would be much better in the US,” Thomas told The Times.

Thomas added that there was “paralysis” from the government and singled out the lack of clarity over its semiconductor strategy.

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