

UK-based Russian duo get Physics Nobel

London: Two Russian-born scientists based at the University of Manchester in the UK Tuesday shared the 2010 Nobel Prize for Physics for their "groundbreaking" work on a material with amazing properties.

Andrei Geim, 51, and Konstantin Novoselov, 36, have been announced as the winners of the 900,000 pounds (10 million Swedish Kronor) prize for their research on graphene.

Reacting to the news, Dr Geim said: "I'm fine, I slept well. I didn't expect the Nobel Prize this year". A thin flake of ordinary carbon, just one atom thick, lies be-



Geim



Novoselov

hind the prize. The two experts have shown that carbon in such a flat form has exceptional properties that originate from the remarkable world of quantum physics, a release from the Nobel committee said.

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Graphene is a form of carbon. Geim and Novoselov extracted the graphene from a piece of graphite such as is found in ordinary pencils. Using regular adhesive tape they managed to obtain a flake of carbon with a thickness of just one atom. This at a time when many believed it was impossible for such thin crystalline materials to be stable. Novoselov first worked with Geim, 51, as a PhD student in the Netherlands. He subsequently followed Geim to the United Kingdom. Geim, is a Dutch national while Novoselov holds British and Russian citizenship. Both of them originally studied and began their careers as physicists in Russia. Now they are both professors at the University of Manchester. P77