

# Fast and easy synthesis of large-scale graphene oxide from graphene via thermal treatment

## **Technology Overview**

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Graphene oxide (GO) is a key product segment in the graphene market which will account for around 40% of the total industry revenue share in 2024. However, the high cost of GO is limiting the application.

The current methods of GO production has a few limitations, such as long oxidation time, formation of defects (poor quality), large volume of acid usage, toxic gas evolution, etc. The high cost of GO is mainly associated with the complex and tedious oxidation processes as well as the huge volume of chemicals used. This technology offers a simple, fast and eco-friendly method of producing GO.











Making a slurry of Graphene with oxidizing agents

Heat treatment for 45 min

New GO production method

min Cooling down and step 2 oxidation

Washing & separation of GO



Yield & dispersion stability of GO produced under different condition

#### **Key Features & Benefits**

- Simple & easily scalable method of GO production
- Fast process (Reduced reaction time)
- High quality GO production
- Less chemical usage
- Eco friendly production process (no toxic NO<sub>2</sub> gas evolution)

#### **Potential Applications**

- Coatings/Adhesives/ Composites
- Sensors & Electronics

Semi-automated GO production system with a capacity of 100g per batch

- Energy storage devices
- Additives for Membrane
- Textiles
- Automotive parts fabrication

**Opportunities for collaboration** 

• Semi-automated GO production system available for collaborative work in GO synthesis

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**GRAPHENE-BASED INNOVATION** 

# **Ultra-wetting Graphene-based Ultrafiltration Membrane**

### **Technology Overview**

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In recent years, graphene has gained much attention in the field of membrane science and engineering due to its high surface area, mechanical strength and chemical stability. predicted graphene-based Theoretical analysis that membranes may exhibit 2-3 orders of magnitude higher permeability than the current state-of-the-art membranes.

EWTCOI's patented ultra-wetting graphene-based membrane has been developed with a unique method that facilitates the easy scalability of this membrane. To do so, EWTCOI has chemically-grafted GO to a polymer backbone to create a polymer composite.

The membrane with improved hydrophilicity can operate at lower pressure, thereby reducing as high as 20-50% of the overall energy consumption. Membranes are robust and able to resist fouling and thereby reduce the frequent cleaning requirement, chemical usage, and downtime. It can be used for all ultrafiltration applications such as pre-treatment to RO, potable water treatment, produced water treatment etc.





#### Functionalized graphene based ultrafiltration (UF) membrane



#### **Key Features & Benefits**

- High permeable membrane
- Operates at lower pressure
- Resistant to fouling
- Chemically & Mechanically stable
- Reduced Cleaning & downtime
- Reduced overall operating cost (~20%)

#### **Potential Applications**

- Pre-treatment to RO
- Potable water filters

Pilot system (25-50 m<sup>3</sup>/d) with 4" membrane module tested at PUB R&D facility at 40 LMH, 90% recovery

#### **Opportunities for collaboration**

- Industry partners (membrane manufacturers or system integrators with capabilities to scale-up • the membrane) who can bring this technology to market by licensing this technology.
- Partners who can further improve the dispersion of the polymer composite. •

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- Industrial water treatment
- F&B Process & separation
- **Protein separation**

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# **Graphene Based Thin Film Composite Membrane**

## **Technology Overview**

Nanofiltration (NF) is typically used in surface water (e.g., colour, total organic carbon removal) or ground water treatment (e.g., hardness removal). NF has also found other applications (e.g., Food and Beverages, Chemical/Petrochemicals, Pharmaceutical/Biomedical, textile etc).

Like reverse osmosis (RO) membrane, NF membranes typically have a polyamide selective layer formed using interfacial polymerization, which allows the membrane to reject components such as multi-valent salt, dye etc. However, the cross-linkages in conventional thin film composite (TFC) layer can be deactivated with repeated chlorine dosing, resulting in reduced rejection over time.

EWTCOI has developed a nanofiltration membrane with fully functionalized graphene oxide based TFC for separation processes. It can also be used for demineralisation, dye-salt fractionation, and macromolecular sieving in pharmaceutical, chemical and diary industries.

#### Functionalized graphene based TFC membranes for NF/RO applications



#### **Key Features & Benefits**

- Fully functionalized GO based TFC membrane
- Flexible to coat onto flat sheet & hollow fiber
- Potentially higher chlorine resistance

#### **Potential Applications**

- Pre-treatment to RO (to reduce load)
- Dye-salt fractionation
- Industrial water treatment
- F&B / Pharmaceutical
- Product separation & concentration



#### **Opportunities for collaboration**

- Industry partners to license the technology and to bring the technology to market.
- Collaborators to further improve the defect-free TFC layer and bring this technology to the next level.

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