

## Wonder stuff: Seven new materials to change the world

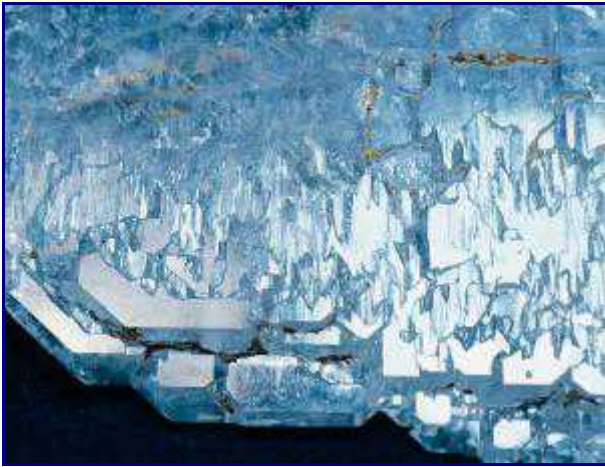


(Image: Joe Snow)

Leaner, faster, greener – technological revolutions require incredible new materials. So what's the stuff about to transform our lives?

## MEMORY GLASS

### Glass that will store your info for ever



Hard drives can be wiped. DVDs degrade. So let's do like Superman and record our most precious memories in shards of data-hungry glass

## SHRILK

### Shrimp plus spider kills plastic



Combine the hard stuff in shrimp shells with a spider silk protein and you get shrilk, a tough, biodegradable replacement for world-choking plastics

## STANENE

### Electron freeway for cool gadgets

Wish your smartphone could keep its cool? Then discard its wasteful silicon chip and get on the stanene superhighway instead

## AEROGELS

### Frozen smoke to clean the world



Almost as light as air, aerogels are a heavyweight solution for everything from heat-bleeding windows to carbon emissions

## SELF-HEALING POLYMERS

### Things that repair themselves



Scratch-free cars and chip-free nail varnish are only the start of dreams for "Terminator" materials that can regenerate themselves

## SKUTTERUDITES

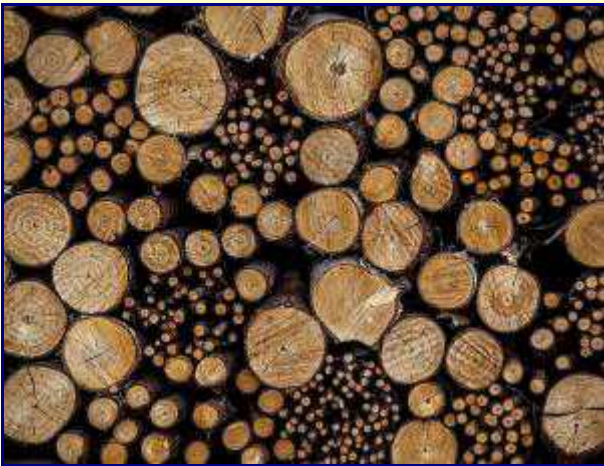
### Heat scavengers promise energy bonanza



A new breed of structures called skutterudites could finally tap the floods of energy our machines waste as heat

## WOOD

### Amazing material that *does* grow on trees



Wood could hold up the skyscrapers of the future – now that it's stronger and more versatile than