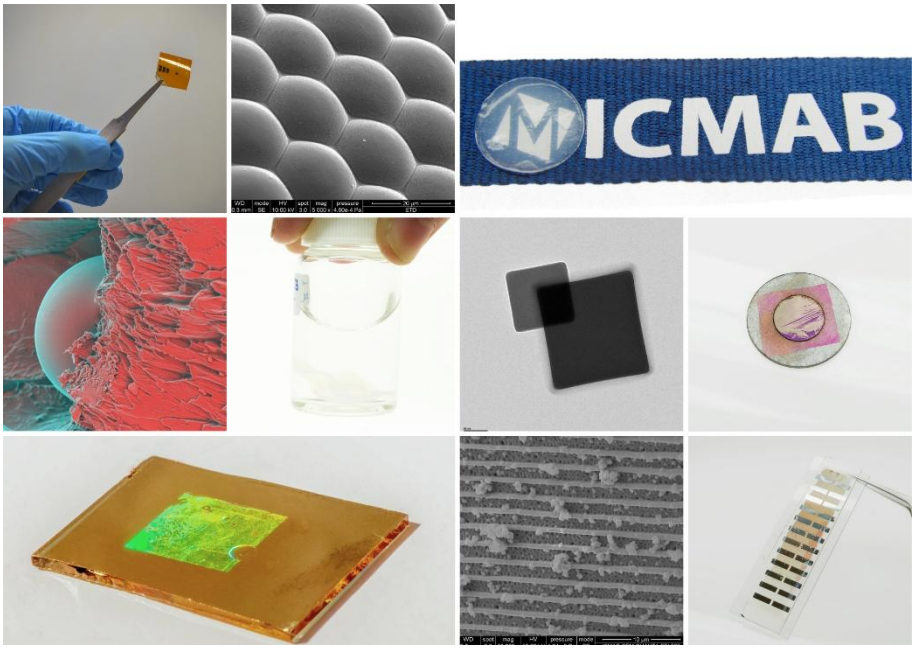
PRESS RELEASE

ICMAB-CSIC
Communication department
Tel.: +34 93 580 18 53
communication@icmab.es
icmab.es

Discover Materials Inspire: a new open image library to explore and share materials science

ICMAB-CSIC launches a free online collection of scientific photographs, bringing materials research closer to educators, communicators, artists and the general public



Collage with pictures available in this new website | Available at Materials Inspire | Authors at the end of the text

Cerdanyola, November 24, 2026 – The Institute of Materials Science of Barcelona (ICMAB-CSIC) has launched Materials Inspire, a new online library of scientific images available at inspire.icmab.es. The platform brings together photographs of materials, laboratory samples, scientific instruments and microscopic structures, offering a visual perspective on the research carried out at the institute.

Materials Inspire aims to build an open image library that brings together existing scientific photographs and new images created specifically for the collection. Its goal is to provide educators, journalists, science communicators, artists and the general public with a growing visual resource to illustrate, explore and communicate materials science.

Scientific images, freely available

The library allows visitors to browse, search and download scientific photographs, each accompanied by information about the materials, devices or techniques involved.

All images are published under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence. This means they can be shared, reproduced and adapted, including for commercial purposes, provided that appropriate credit is given to their creators. The website also includes information on how to acknowledge the images correctly.

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A collection designed to grow

In its first phase, Materials Inspire features images contributed by the ICMAB research community, including photographs produced during research and outreach activities.

A second phase, planned for spring 2027, will open the collection to contributions from beyond the institute, with the aim of building a broader visual resource for materials science.

Explore the collection: https://inspire.icmab.es

Materials Inspire is an initiative of ICMAB-CSIC, developed with the support of the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities and the Spanish State Research Agency (AEI), through the Severo Ochoa Centre of Excellence project Materials Transition for Tomorrow's World (MATRANS42), reference CEX2023-001263-S.

Pictures and Authors (top-left to bottom-right):

1. Flexible Electronics, by Dean Kos
2. Fly insect through SEM – 23, by Anna Esther Carrillo
3. Cellulose film over ICMAB logo, by ICMAB-CSIC
4. SUNRISE ON MARS, by Anna Esther Carrillo
5. Suspended cellulose sample in a vial, by ICMAB-CSIC
6. ZIF-8 through TEM, by Ana María López and Concepción Domingo
7. Suspended P3HT Nanofilm – 1, by ICMAB-CSIC
8. Optoglass: green over gold, by ICMAB-CSIC
9. Butterfly through SEM – 3, by Anna Esther Carrillo
10. Organic solar cells – 1, by ICMAB-CSIC