Fullerenes

A fullerene is a pure form of carbon molecule composed of at least 60-atoms of carbon. The molecule is spheroidal shape, which has a hollow cage. The molecule is produced by the action of half a discharge between carbon electrodes in an inactive atmosphere. It is seen as a promising component of future micro-electromechanical systems and in nanotechnology.



NASA, in co-operation with the University of Hawaii, has discovered naturally occurring fullerenes in ancient meteorites that hit the earth. Recent research has suggested many uses for fullerenes, including medical applications, superconductors, and fiber optics.

Nanotubes are fullerenes that can be used to einforce graphite in tennis rackets because they are very strong. They are also used as semiconductors in electrical circuits and because of their structure it allows iOo be used as a containenfold transporting a crug in the body efficiently.

Their distinctive molecular structure results in extraordinary properties, including high malleable strength, high electrical conductivity, high ductility, and high heat conductivity.

