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# On Her Majesty's Service

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Scientists triumph by  
a Whisker.

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## Scientists triumph by a whisker

By ARTHUR SMITH

A BIG advance in "whisker technology" may give motorists cars with bodies that could last for ever.

The breakthrough, by British scientists, has produced a cheap plastic twine as strong as high-tensile steel.

Until now the material has been costly to make—because the tiny fibre whiskers used in its production cost more than £30 a pound.

But now scientists at the Explosives Research and Development Establishment at Waltham Abbey, Essex, have found that they can get perfectly good results with asbestos fibres—costing 1s. 6d. a pound.

### Resin

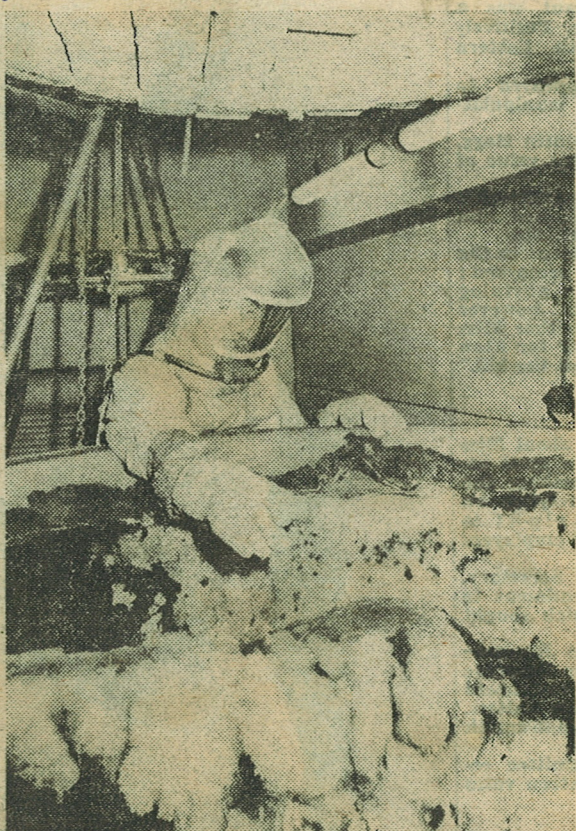
Impregnated with resin, the fibres make a material stronger than titanium—a metal used extensively in aircraft and rockets.

One of the scientists, Dr. R. L. Williams, said yesterday: "These materials could revolutionise the motor industry."

"But perhaps motor manufacturers would not want to make cars with bodies that would last for ever."

"They would never corrode. They would be cheaper than steel bodies and just as strong."

The establishment is run by the Ministry of Technology.



*A whisker man at work . . . technician Leslie Fido with some of the new fibres.*