Wolfgang Krätschmer

**What is the special value of your invention?**
Well, this more or less concerns fundamental research and its a new aspect of carbon as a chemical element. It concerns the nature of carbon and the possibility with which carbon can form architectural constructions like spheres, cylinders and things like that.

**Do you have any ideas what it could be used for?**
Maybe in pharmacy, maybe in electronics maybe in protecting other things because carbon can form skins and large planar structures so it can be used for wrapping dangerous substances like waste or so, I don't know, there's lots of things which are possible.

**Was there a specific moment when you realised you had made a breakthrough?**
I was asking myself that question many times and I must say no. It was a smooth transition. But I think when we discovered the infrared absorptions which were characteristic for c60, this was a kind of relief that now we said- we have it. That was the eureka event. In order to get his was not so easy. It was not really concentrated on one day, or one second it was going for one week with the experiments for example.

**Where you surprised when you were informed about the nomination?**
I was drinking tea. I was surprised. When I first received the email I was seeing it in the spam mail, so I was throwing it in the waste basket. But then came the parcel, this letter and then I was convinced there must be behind.

**If you were an artist, how would you visualise your invention?**
I would be very happy about this discovery because of the beauty of the geometry. This is a perfect polyether, which other people know as a soccer ball geometry. And the beauty, well I think this is something which is hard to define but a chemist would believe that's beauty, a physicist would also say it's beautiful because of the perfect symmetry. Even books have been written about the discoveries now I remember. And the title of one of those books was 'perfect symmetry', the perfect symmetrical molecule, or the most beautiful molecule. And that that answers the question.