

## House of the future will be a major talking point

**GOING** home and telling your house to switch off the alarm and turn on the lights may be the stuff of Hollywood blockbusters – but Scots scientists are already back to the future.

Later this week, researchers at Edinburgh University will unveil their prototype Smart House, which responds to the owner's voice commands such as 'Turn on the television' and 'Switch off the lights downstairs'. The voice-activated computer project, jointly pioneered by scientists in Edinburgh and Stanford University in the US, looks set to revolutionise domestic life and could offer huge technological advances for industry worldwide.

The £5.3million Edinburgh-Stanford Link was launched two years ago, and on Friday Enterprise Minister Jim Wallace will welcome some of the UK's leading industry chiefs to the Scots university as researchers showcase their latest high-tech advances, including a demonstration of the automated house. Nick Wright, commercial manager of the Edinburgh-Stanford Link, said: 'The implications for the home entertainment sector are fairly immediate. In the long-term we could see home owners texting their house-computer telling it to switch the heating and lights on.'