

House that obeys occupants' orders

A TALKING HOUSE, a virtual receptionist and a machine that analyses your personality from your Emails were just some of the Scottish inventions on display at a science conference yesterday.

The cutting-edge projects, which could soon be in the shops, were on show at the industry launch of a scheme that brings together academics from Scotland and the United States.

The Edinburgh-Stanford Link scheme has been helping Edinburgh University and Stanford University in California to develop speech and language technology projects for more than a year.

The conference at Edinburgh University's medical school was about highlighting the scheme's successes and attracting business backing.

Link commercial manager Nick Wright said the talking house technology meant people would be able to ask their house to turn on its own lights or the heating either by speaking or by phoning home.

"If you were in a bad mood it might play soothing music, because it would be able to recognise your emotions through your speech."