

## Talking car set to hit the streets

SCOTS scientists are working on a Knight Rider-style car that talks back.

Researchers at Edinburgh University are developing a motor like KITT in the 1980s show.

A voice synthesiser would warn the driver about problems. And the motorist would be able to speak orders aloud.

Dr Oliver Lemon said: "Rather than taking your hands off the wheel to press a button or look at the screen, you have a conversation with your car.

"It understands your voice, and replies. It won't be able to chat about the weather.

"But it will be able to do whatever the driver asks it to do - operate the radio, CD player, heating and satellite navigation.

"It will be able to detect if the driving is erratic, or too fast, and make a comment."

The university's Human Communication Research Centre is working on the technology for BMW and Bosch and it could be on the road in five years.