

# Uni save-its power bills

A Victorian university has just saved itself \$73,000 in electricity charges following the installation of a new energy efficient fluorescent lighting system across six campuses — Footscray, Werribee, Melton, St Albans, Sunshine and Sunbury.

Victoria University prides itself on being on the cutting edge of innovative technology and has installed around 10,000 of the revolutionary adaptor systems, Save-It-Easy, which enables new energy efficient fluorescent tubes to be placed into existing fittings.

Environment project officer of VU, Rachael Keefe, said an audit in the second half of 2006 had identified a number of opportunities to significantly reduce the University's energy consumption.

"A lighting upgrade was one

of the easiest solutions available to us and significant savings were able to be achieved quickly because lighting typically accounts for around 25% of total electricity consumption in a commercial environment," Ms Keefe said.

Project teams were established at each campus and the Save-It-Easy solution was implemented in stages to fit in with campus activities and to take advantage of campus vacation periods.

"Our main objective was to minimise disruption to students and staff, but we actually found the easy installation process meant there was no impact at all.

"In fact, it has been such a success that we are now looking at expanding the installation program to include additional campuses during the 2007 summer vacation."

CEO of Illum-a-Lite, the company that provided the Save-It-Easy product, Mark Rutherford, said the adaptors were fitted to one end of the new 28Watt T5 lamps so they could be fitted into existing T8 light fittings.

"The new tube and adaptor sets are quick and easy to fit and don't require a professional electrician, complicated re-wiring or new fittings, saving the University time and money," Mr Rutherford said.

"Importantly, all of the old T8 fluorescent tubes have been recycled, in order to minimise waste from the upgrade.

"The new T5 lamps have double the life and only a third of the mercury content of the old ones making them an even better prospect for the environment into the future," Mr Rutherford said.



## Roller gets a new boss

ROLLS-ROYCE has appointed Tony Davis as chief executive officer of Rolls-Royce Australia Services Pty Ltd.

Succeeding Bob Moore, Mr Davis joined the company in September and will take up his new role effective January. He will be based in Sydney.

Before joining Rolls-Royce, Tony was director of operations for Saab Systems naval business and the deputy managing director for the Saab Australian operating entity, Saab Systems Pty Ltd based in Adelaide.

Bob Moore retired at the end of the year after more than 22 years of service.

## Victoria is the new churn capital

VICTORIA is the hottest energy retail market in the world — almost one in four utility customers in the state switched suppliers during the past year.

First Data Corporation's third edition of "World Energy Retail Market Ranking" previous top-ranked market Great Britain has been relegated to second place.

The report also revealed successful utility retail competition is being sustained in markets around the world, with almost all active-rated markets showing

increasing levels of customer switching activity.

In the US, accumulated data highlights the success of the Texas electricity retail market, in contrast to other states that employ a regulated hybrid market structure.

The Utility Customer Switching Research Project monitors customer switch rates and trends in fully competitive deregulated energy retail markets worldwide and has provided the first global view of utility customer switching activity.

## Today's bright sparks fire up tomorrow's Foosball

ENGINEERING students from The University of Adelaide have taken out the top award in their final-year mechatronics project competition, with an automated foosball table capable of kicking human opposition 'off the park'.

Comprising a motion sensor system, software written by the student team for decision-making and a precision actuation system for manipulation of the controls, the automated game proved to be stiff competition.

The winning project was sponsored by Sage Automation's training arm, Sage Didactic and supported by Rockwell Automation.

Foosball is a soccer-style game that pits two opponents against each other — in this case, only one of them human — both controlling four sets of player rods that can be manipulated side-to-side and rotated to 'kick' the ball and score goals.



Foosball Kings (and Queens) (L-R) Tammy Chau; Jason Then; Matthew Turnbull; Sam Wan; Steven Cheung.