

# WiTricity

A team of US researchers has come up with an electricity system that does not need wires. This is a **breakthrough** in what will hopefully be a wireless future. The scientists, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, lit a 60-watt light bulb using magnetic fields. In the test, the power source was just two meters away from the light, but the team hopes they will soon be able to send electricity longer distances through the air. They have **dubbed** their new invention “WiTricity”, or wireless electricity. Although wi-fi has been around for some years now, it has been limited to the **transmission** of information, especially between computers and modems, printers and scanners. This is the first time electrical appliances have been powered wirelessly.

This new development means that our houses may be free from tangled wires. Gone will be the days of having to unplug the vacuum to go from room to room, and of having countless plugs hidden behind the TV and stereo. The new source of delivering power to gadgets remotely may also reduce the number of fires caused by poor wiring and overloaded sockets. It turns out the concept is not so new. A century ago, inventor Nikola Tesla struck upon the idea of building a huge tower in New York that would wirelessly beam power to the city. Unfortunately, his idea never came to **fruition**, until today, that is. It will still be a while before we have wireless homes and offices. Safety experts will be checking closely to ensure the power source causes us no harm.

## Comprehension Questions

1. What experiment was carried out at MIT?
  2. What do the researchers hope for in the future?
  3. What is witricity currently limited to?
  4. Who is Nikola Tesla?
  5. What are the benefits of witricity?  
→ cleaner desk area, safer, easier to carry electronics, less concerns about cancer and other maladies caused by cable wires, robots, etc.
- Ask more questions related to the topic other than the ones given above.
  - Have a full discussion about electricity, wires and witricity.

## Discussion questions

1. Which of these things would you like to be wireless? How would being 'wireless' make these things more practical?

lamps

vacuum cleaners

fridges

TVs

computers

games consoles

telephones/fax machines

other \_\_\_\_\_

2. Might these headlines come true?

- Entire language downloaded into the brain in 25 seconds
- London to Sydney in a minute on new SuperJet
- Last office closes. World population now working from home
- DoctorBots arrive – heart surgery via an easy-to-swallow pill
- McDonalds opens first moon restaurant
- iPod becomes latest addition to Antique Technology Museum
- Tech whiz-kid Gill Bates invents replacement to computer