

Throw Silicon Chips Away; New Approaches To Computer Power Are On The Way

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New sources of computing power – derived from such novel areas as neuron-like cells and powerful chemical reactions – could form the heart of the next generation of computers. The University of the West of England and four research partners have just won £1.8 million in government funding to carry out research into computers that are inspired by nature. This means UWE is playing a key role in two out of only five nationally funded projects aimed at such exciting multidisciplinary research.

In the first, £1.2 million project, computer scientists, biologists and chemists at UWE will work with the universities of Sussex and Leeds to develop **alternatives to the silicon chip**. They will look at two new approaches that use real biological neurons and networks of chemical reactions.

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