

"Design Hub / Prototypical" - Case Histories.
April 2008

Business	Codepage Systems
People	Mervyn Porter
Location	Bressingham
Nature of Business	Energy loss sensor

This idea is based upon the need to conserve energy and reduce the wastage of fuel. When doors and windows are left open, energy is lost by the escape of heated air and the ingress of cold air (or vice-versa when air conditioning is in use). The device monitors temperature continually and compares any changes over short time periods, when windows and doors that have been left open, often unwittingly. An alert is then sent to an alarm, e.g. a door bell sounder so that the offending opening can be closed, thus saving energy.

Mervyn had begun this design exercise himself and using his software and electronics experience to build a range of basic, working prototypes, enough to encourage him to go to the next stages and invest significant sums. He came to the Design Hub in the pursuance of a grant to assist with the process and he has used our services for some time now for both general NPD advice and help with funding.

We have advised Mervyn on a number of issues, including the use of specialist design consultancies, i.e. electronics (Kappa Controls of Dereham) and product design (Product Resolutions of Norwich) and patent services (ip21 of Norwich Research Park). We have also helped with advice, sequencing of events, general discussions on the business connotations, etc.

The device is not only technically novel and advanced, but combines visual attractiveness with function, giving the ability to; save energy, carbon emissions and cash.

The Design Hub channelled a small grant to Codepage via the "Prototypical" scheme, funded by Norfolk County Council. This was spent on a combination of the services described above and allowed the client to progress through the design process, using local expertise and guidance. He intends to commercialise his invention by licensing his IP to appropriate companies already in the related field of domestic electronic devices, e.g. doorbell makers. Design renditions of the device are illustrated below.

