

SPRINGFIELD GETS SMART

NEC has signed a deal that will see the Smart State get another 'connected community' — in Greater Springfield, south-west of Brisbane.

Greater Springfield is a \$15 billion, 2,860ha development encompassing four suburbs and a CBD area. Under the deal with Springfield Land Corporation, NEC will provide services including Wi-Fi Internet, wireless hotspots, IPTV, and multimedia solutions.

The plan for the high-tech community was loosely based on the Japanese Government's U-Japan Initiative. Springfield's developers are assessing the community's ICT requirements to meet the predicted demand levels.

A spokesman for NEC says that while the technology hasn't been confirmed, there is a lot of potential for home automation in Springfield, and they are looking at their options.

NEC will locate the backbone of the service at the 20,000m² Polaris Data Centre. It will enable residents to connect with a wider network of providers to ensure they can still choose their own Internet and telephone service providers.

SKUNKWORKS WINS WEB FIGHT

Skunkworks, an Australian flat screen bracket manufacturer, has won a legal battle to secure the rights to its UK website.

Lockheed Martin, the world's number one military contractor and makers of the Stealth Bomber, took legal action against the Perth company's www.skunkworks-uk.co.uk website citing various claims of abusive use of the Skunkworks name.

Lockheed Martin had originally used the name in the 1950s in relation to its undercover Cold War technology division.

The case revealed that despite its association with the name, Lockheed Martin had no current products or services under the Skunkworks brand.

Lockheed Martin is also challenging Skunkworks' Australian trademark registration.



5THCORNER SHOWS OFF

Kelly and Marc Weijers, owners of 5thCorner Home Automation, have launched what they say is Queensland's largest dedicated display of smart home technologies — the 5thCorner Technology Lounge.

Located in the Brisbane suburb of Woolloongabba, the 450m² display lounge has the capacity to create a complete experience in stylish environments with a range of services that include the design, installation and support for everything from home theatres, boardroom AV, music distribution, lighting and appliance control systems, advanced security and surveillance.

"We wanted to create a place for customers to experience the benefits of audio-visual and automation products and also to have a boutique venue for functions and product launches," says Kelly.

"It would have been pointless for us to create a showroom with a stack of technology mounted on the wall. We wanted to create a space that appreciates design, technology and integration of the two.

"We want to show how technology can be seamlessly integrated into your home."

For more information visit: <http://www.5thcorner.com.au>.

LG RELEASES PATCH FOR TV GLITCH

LG has revealed that it will send a fleet of technicians out on the road to apply a software patch to tens of thousands of its TV screens.

The company says it is also working with the free to air television networks to avoid further service disruptions, after it was revealed that the screens of a number of its displays were locking up or freezing.

LG said in-house tests had found a software upgrade would be required to fix the screens, which could intermittently lock up or freeze under certain signal transmissions. The problem affected certain LG LCD, plasma, rear projection and CRT TVs with integrated digital tuners purchased after August 2006.

The company has set up a website (www.lghdtv.com.au/softwareupdate) for customers with affected TVs to register for a service call to apply the software update. LG estimated that the number of affected TVs affected would number in the tens of thousands.

Only models purchased after August 2006 with serial numbers beginning with 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 701, 702 or 703 are affected. Other models do not require the update.

In a media release on 21 March, LG said if a customer experiences a further freeze, prior to installing the upgrade, they simply need to turn the power off, unplug the TV at the wall power socket, and allow the unit to completely power down over a 20-minute period.

A spokesman for the company said it will respond to affected customers who register via the website within a week.