

Top award for city students' life-saving alarm system

GLASGOW students have won an international award after inventing an early-warning system that could save lives.

The creation by the 11 students at Glasgow University is a modern-day version of the canary in a coal mine. It can detect chemical leaks in factories, oil pipes and landfill sites, and then sends out a warning signal.

The idea took first prize at the International Genetically Engineered Awards in America last month, where it was in competition with 52 other teams from 20 countries.

One of the Glasgow team, Scott Ramsay, said: "The research involved engineering microbes that detect toxic chemicals, and then synthesise to generate electricity and trigger a signal."

The University of Glasgow is now chasing funding to develop the sensor further.

