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## Power-saving breakthrough on the horizon

An innovative technology, with the potential to significantly reduce home and business power bills and the associated carbon emissions, has received an investment that will deliver its power-saving breakthrough to market within 12 months.

Cleantech Ventures, through the Victorian Government's CEGT Fund, has completed an investment in Ember Technologies the company pioneering the technology.

The power saving device can selectively turn off inactive electrical devices in idle or standby mode to deliver substantial benefits for both home and business. According to a number of official sources standby power consumption represents roughly 10% of residential power consumption in Australia.

Ember Technologies' power-saving breakthrough, which involves an innovative blend of embedded adaptive intelligence technology and smart electronics, is ideally suited for all standard audio-visual systems and computer applications within the home and office, but most importantly it requires no change in the consumer behaviour. Ember does it all automatically. Direct benefits of the technology include:

- Significant power savings
- Longer equipment life through full powering down of devices
- Reduced fire risk through the removal of standby power and protection against dangerous power fluctuations
- No need to remember to switch off equipment or power points
- Less risk of equipment damage from power surges and sags in electricity supply
- Reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through the reduction and in most cases elimination of standby power

A total investment of \$750,000, by Cleantech Ventures in conjunction with South Australian seed investor Playford Capital, will fund the company to finalise its initial product designs and plan the launch of its products.

The first application of this technology, expected to be launched early next year, will be through a smart power board, suitable for both the PC environment and home audio-visual systems. Sustainability Victoria rates both computer and audio visual equipment as amongst the most power-hungry in standby mode.

Ember Technologies CEO Domenico Gelonese said the company's breakthrough has the capacity to deliver substantial monetary and environmental benefits nationally. "Our technology addresses the standby power we needlessly consume in our homes and offices; in Australia alone this wasteful power consumption is worth in the order of \$1 billion dollars annually and equivalent to the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by around 1.5 million cars annually" he said.

Cleantech Ventures Investment Manager Julian Turecek said Ember's planned products offered a strong value proposition. "As we head into a carbon-constrained environment, a smart technology delivered simply that allows consumers to easily reduce their standby power has a lot of appeal," he

said. “Ember seems to fit that bill very well. Cleantech Ventures is pleased to co-invest with Playford Capital to bring this smart Australian technology to market.”

*End.*

**About Cleantech Ventures** [www.cleantechventures.com.au](http://www.cleantechventures.com.au)

Cleantech Ventures is a Victorian-based venture capital company with \$80million funds under management, focusing exclusively on emerging technologies in the cleantech sector. Cleantech Ventures manages the Victorian Government-funded CEGT Fund, a \$30 million seed fund now with 12 investee companies.

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