CATS EXPERIENCE BITTER-TASTING COMPOUNDS DIFFERENTLY
Researchers identified bitter taste receptors in cats, and found that they responded differently to phenylthiocarbamide (PTC) and 6-n-propylthiouracil (PROP) compared to human receptors. This could aid development of more appetising medicines for pet cats.

ELECTROCHEMICAL SENSOR DETECTS CANCER MARKERS
A new electrochemical sensor detects mutated versions of selected nucleic acids (the compounds that help make up DNA) in just 15 minutes. Mutated DNA is known to be present in the blood of cancer patients. The test also works on unpurified samples.

DIGITALLY ENCODING INFORMATION ON SYNTHETIC POLYMERS
For the first time, scientists have succeeded in recording and reading a binary code on a synthetic polymer. The new method used polyalkoxyamine amides, and the information can also be erased, as the polymers decompose when heated.

RECOVERING INDIUM FROM LCD SCREENS
Future shortages of indium are a technological cause for concern, as it’s an important element in touch screens. A new method allows its extraction from LCD screens, by grinding up the glass then bathing the resultant particles in heated sulfuric acid solution.

PROGRAMMING BACTERIA TO DETECT MOLECULES IN URINE
Scientists have programmed bacteria to detect glucose in the urine of diabetics, using genetic switches. The researchers hope that the concept can also be used to detect many other molecular markers of disease in urine, and allow better diagnostic testing.