



• Bosnian computer science student Irena Doutlik, 21, watches a miniature robot travel through a tube in the new Brooker Laboratory.

Campus invaded by robots

A UNIQUE laboratory where students can build and design intelligent robotic computers has been opened at Essex University.

Dr Vic Callaghan, who led the team which developed the facility, said: "We believe that this lab is world beating in allowing subjects as diverse as hardware design, image interpretation and artificial intelligence to be supported within a unified experimental environment."

It is also being used for research, which Dr Callaghan said

would provide students with further motivation for studies.

He said: "Students have access to the same state-of-the-art hardware and software as used, for example, by NASA and British Aerospace."

During the current academic year an estimated 300 undergraduates and post graduates will use the Brooker Laboratory — named in honour of computer pioneer Professor Tony Brooker who was at the university for 21 years.