

NEWS FROM:



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UCT soccer viewing area defies electricity failures

The Department of Chemical Engineering (ChemEng) at UCT dug deep into its creative resources to create a World Cup viewing area with a TV screen that keeps broadcasting even during electric power failures.

Staff and students at the department are enjoying the games live on a high-definition TV screen that is powered by a hydrogen fuel cell, which splits hydrogen atoms into electrons and protons. The protons pass through a polymer electrolyte membrane, while the electrons form an external electricity circuit that powers the TV before recombining with the protons and oxygen, forming clean water as its only “waste” product.

This initiative saved the department from power failure on 15 June. The three-hour blackout went unnoticed by those watching in ChemEng, thanks to the hydrogen fuel cell.

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