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Brief: UNIQ-CORP

Cosmic rays generate random numbers

COSMIC rays from exploding stars have provided a new and innovative way of producing truly random numbers.

University of Queensland mathematician Dr Michael Bulmer and UQ physicist Dr Kevin Pimblet have produced random numbers from cosmic rays which could help researchers develop more secure computer codes.

Dr Bulmer said most methods of generating computer codes with random numbers were not secure because they were computer generated.

The problem with random sets created by computers is that they can be broken once the algorithm used to generate them is deciphered, he said.