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CES LAS VEGAS 2010

Tico Invention Wins Prize in global technology fair

- Picowatt analyzes what is the best time of day for electricity consumption
- Apparatus won the award for green technology, will be sold from April

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An invention whose design and development engineer has been involved with Costa Rica won the award for best green technology in the latest edition of the CES show in Las Vegas.

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This fair is the largest in the world when consumer-electronics products that reach the general public is concerned.

The company stated it Tenrehte dubbed Picowatt product, a kind of control for power-consuming appliances in the hours that this service is cheaper.

After being reviewed by judges specializing in technology site CNet, it was announced that Picowatt **winner of the "green technologies"**. According to its creators, if you use two or three of these appliances in an average home electric bill can be reduced between 20% and 30%.

Contributed tico. According to Carlos Barrios, a Costa Rican who studied engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology (New York), the product began to gestate in his head and four more engineers a year ago.

Barrios has a decade of living in America and Picowatt expected to reach U.S. stores next Earth Day (April 22) at an approximate cost of \$ 80 each.

"It is designed to operate appliances or equipment of much use," Barrios said in an interview with *The Nation*.

"For example, you tell how long and how many days should light up the pool filter or heater and Picowatt automatically connects to the electricity supplier to light when energy is cheapest," said Barrios.

Normally power is cheaper during late evening and early morning, when consumption is low.

Barrett admitted that his group does not expect to win an award from the CES show but that the appointment has been very beneficial in recent days since received many calls and emails demanding to know the product better.

"I have also had informal discussions with the Instituto Costarricense de Electricidad (ICE) because I think it could be used in Picowatt Costa Rica," the engineer added.

Although electricity networks not automatically send information to their charges, people may enter this information into the system via a web page to run it.

"It also means that I, for example, can turn on the lights just before reaching my home via a cell phone with an Internet browser," he said Barrios.

PHOTOS



Jennifer Indovina, president of Tenrehte (makers of Picowatt) and Costa Rican Carlos Barrios posed with the prize. Tenrehte



VIDEOS



Video Picowatt during CES (English audio).

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