LEADING EDGE

PROGRAMME INFO
Thursday 21:00-21:30

Leading Edge brings you the latest news from the world of science. Geoff Watts celebrates discoveries as soon as they're being talked about - on the internet, in coffee rooms and bars; often before they're published in journals. And he gets to grips with not just the science, but with the controversies and conversation that surround it.

Contact Leading Edge

LISTEN AGAIN 30 min
Listen to 14 February

PRESENTER
GEOFF WATTS

The evolution of echolocation

Did bats learn to fly before they learned to listen for echoes?

The discovery of a species over 50 million years old sheds new light on the evolution of echolocation, as Dr Nancy Simmons of the American Museum of Natural History explains.

Polar ponderings

Science writer Fred Pearce makes some icy reflections on the warmer, more watery world of the future.

Deep Impact

Fresh from its first success - investigating the interior make-up of comets – NASA's Deep Impact
spacecraft is charged with a new mission.

Professor Michael A'Hearn of the University of Maryland tells Geoff about the search for new, extra solar planets.

**Doubts about cause of CJD**

The agents responsible for Creutzfeld Jacob disease in humans, and scrapie in sheep - “transmissible spongiform encephalopathies” (TSEs) - were thought to be caused by abnormal proteins.

But doubts are growing about the prion theory, as Sue Broom discovered when she went to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Scotland.

**AI in art**

Could artificial intelligence ever be taken seriously as a creative force in the world of high art?

Geoff gets his portrait ‘painted’ by an intelligent machine, the brainchild of software programmers at London’s Imperial College.