Research sheds light on opto-electronics

By Jon Van

University of Illinois researchers in Urbana-Champaign are working on novel ideas to make computer chips more efficient and less expensive.

In Chicago, University of Illinois computer scientists are using a technique called "opto-electronics," which involves the interaction of light and electricity to make computer chips more efficient and less expensive.

"The idea is to use light to control the electrical properties of materials," said University of Illinois professor John Bowers. "This could potentially lead to more efficient computer chips."