

Welcome to the September 20th, 2017, Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

I haven't outraged many of my readers in the past few month so I guess it is time to do it again. I have been reading articles about how this summer is the worst for Hollywood Box Office in history. Not one of these commentators has come up with any good reasons for this drop in box office. After taking a real good look at it, I can give you two good reasons. First, the cost of the tickets have gone through the roof and it is costing a fortune to create and produce a movie. Then you add the exorbitant salaries of the leading actors and you are setting it up for failure. Have you taken a good look at the ending credits of modern movies. There has to be a 1,000 people needed just to make one movie. Of course it is going to fail.

But that's not controversial. What is controversial is my other observation. Ever since the fall of 2016, Hollywood Celebrities have come out to almost a man (or woman) to tell us how unenlightened, how crude and how racist it was to vote for Donald Trump. And if that wasn't enough, they have kept on doing it since the president has taken office. Also it seems that they have gone out of their way to trash the president no matter what he does. Now where does that come into Hollywood box office receipts you might ask. My father owned a gas station and was a devote Democrat. I once asked him why we didn't put a sticker on our car for John F. Kennedy because we were Democrats and Catholics. My father looked at me and said, "Son, when you work in a service industry there are two things you don't talk about. The first thing is religion and the second is politics. If you do, no matter what you say you will piss off half of your customers."

I think that this is pretty much proven by Sunday night's Emmy Awards Ceremonies. I was full of glitz and glitter and Trump Bashing. Also it was one of the lowest rated Emmy Awards show in history. Now think about it, do you really want to go and see someone or watch them on TV who holds your beliefs in such distain and support them. I think not. I figure that there will be a number of you out there who do not agree with me on this observation and I look forward to hearing from you.

Oh, BTW, NFL Football ratings are way down too. I wonder if it has something to do about some of the players taking a knee during the National Anthem? Ya think?

So on that "interesting note", why don't y'all sit back and relax because here's the best in gossip, jokes and science for your reading pleasure!

Uncle Timmy

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PASSING OF A CHATTANOOGA FAN, DR. HOLLY HINA

From: "Andy Hendee" ahendee1@yahoo.com

Uncle Timmy, It's with great sadness that I have to tell you Holly Hina passed away this afternoon (September 18th, 201). Her wishes include no funeral or memorial.

From Ann Robards Facebook Page

The sunshine is not so bright today. RIP Holly Hina. The heavens have a new star, Heaven an angel.

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Holly has been fighting cancer for many years and she has finally succumbed to this terrible disease. Fans all over the south are saddened to hear of her passing and there is another good one that we have lost recently. May the perpetual lights shine on you Holly and may you sleep in the arms of the Lord. Tim

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VFW SCHOLARSHIPS

From: "Chris Cowan" cowanc1028@earthlink.net



Do you know a high school student who could use some help paying for college?

Let them know about the VFW's Voice of Democracy Scholarship competition!

<https://www.vfw.org/VOD/>

This Year's Topic is
"American History: Our Hope for the Future"
ENTRY DEADLINE: October 31, 2017

We need to spread the word, and we're asking friends like you to help out. The Voice of Democracy Program is open to students in grades 9-12 (on the Oct. 31 deadline), who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States and its territories.

We want to reach as many patriotic students as possible to compete for the grand prize: \$30,000 paid directly to the American college, university or vocational/technical school of their choice!

Download the application. Pass the word on to:

<https://www.vfw.org/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Voice-of-Democracy-Student-Entry-Form-and-Brochure.pdf?la=en>

- * High School Students
- * Teachers
- * Counselors
- * Youth Groups
- * Parent-Teacher Associations
- * School Boards

Thanks for spreading the word about this incredible opportunity!

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Re: Kobach and New Hampshire

From: "Chris Cowan" cowanc1028@earthlink.net

The article explains the difference between domicile and driver's licenses. There was no fraud. The bolding is mine

Chris

The Post's View - Opinion - KRIS KOBACH IS THE REAL FRAUD

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/kris-kobach-is-the-real-fraud/2017/09/14/4ed61458-98b0-11e7-82e4-f1076f6d6152_story.html?hpid=hp_no-name_opinion-card-f%3Ahomepage%2Fstory

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach. (David Zalubowski/Associated Press)
By Editorial Board September 14 at 7:07 PM

NEW HAMPSHIRE is a small state whose biggest residential college and university campuses are dominated by out-of-state students — tens of thousands of them. UNDER NEW HAMPSHIRE LAW, THEY ARE ENTITLED TO VOTE IN STATE ELECTIONS, AN UNREMARKABLE AND WIDELY KNOWN FACT THAT EASILY EXPLAINS WHY SEVERAL THOUSAND BALLOTS WERE CAST THERE LAST NOVEMBER BY VOTERS WHO REGISTERED ON ELECTION DAY USING OUT-OF-STATE DRIVER'S LICENSES.

Yet to Kris Kobach, the de facto head of President Trump's commission on voting integrity, those votes are somehow "proof" that an invading horde of out-of-staters took advantage of the Granite State's same-day registration law to cast "fraudulent votes." In fact, there's no evidence of that.

The real fraud is Mr. Kobach himself, Kansas's Republican secretary of state and a gubernatorial candidate, who will torture any truth, distort any data and fudge any fact in service to his long-standing goal of suppressing votes, specifically those likely to favor Democrats. Having established himself in his home state as a propagandist, he is now peddling his claptrap on the national stage.

<ON>*<THE>*<SAME>*<SUBJECT>

From: "Adam Grim" Grimaf23@hotmail.com

Turns out Kobach's "proof" of voter fraud is just misrepresenting legal actions. Who would have thought Breitbart would publish misleading articles about voter fraud? <http://www.factcheck.org/2017/09/kobachs-bogus-proof-voter-fraud/>

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Both of the comments from the media are based on their opinion. Adam's is closer to correct but even that one didn't dig down in to the data to determine who these people were. It only gave an opinion on who they might be. UT

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Re: The passing of Jerry Pournelle

From: "Anita S. Moore" foofighterubu@gmail.com

Dearest Uncle Timmy.

I am sad for your loss. John was a huge Niven fan and Pournelle fan by extension>>

I had the pleasure of meeting both the last tie they were at LibertyCon. They vigorously participated in the Mad Scientist discussion that weekend.

We sang something Sunday... Mele and I are in Choir at our church. When life is hard, times are bad, and stuff just hurts, God very often provides a song. Hang on to this one.

"Though my heart and flesh may fail
You're my ever present help
My tower of strength
My portion evermore"

Lord, I Run To You.

Lord I run to You
No one else will do
Lord in troubled times
I will run straight to You

Though my heart and flesh may fail
You're my ever present help
My tower of strength
My portion evermore
(So) Lord I (we) run to You

No one else will do
Lord You said we'd face

Trouble pain and fear
But to be of good cheer

Be of good cheer
For You have overcome
Overcome the world
I lift my eyes up to the mountains

Where does my help come from
It comes from You Lord
You are the Maker of earth and heaven
And there is nothing that's too hard for You
So Lord we run to You

Tommy Walker
Written by: Tommy Walker
Copyright© 2004 Integrity's Praise! Music

HUGS! Love! Prayers. As ever in Christ.
Anita S. Moore

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Re: The September 13th, 2017, Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

From: "Mike Williamson" mzmadmike@gmail.com

History wasn't revisionist 40 years ago?

Cool story, bro.

The secession was about slavery. Read the secession documents. "Slavery, slavery, slavery makes us great! All praise slavery! Slavery is the most awesome thing EVAR!"

Now, were there other factors as well? Yes.

But the South started that war over slavery.

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Re: The Orville

From: "Mel Boros" boros@pobox.com

It looks like the "professional" critics and the rest of the world Star Trek fans have divergent opinions on this new SF TV series. The hour long format was specifically chosen to allow for an actual story line to be presented in and amongst the comedic occurrences of each episode. The visual effects are top quality as are the ensemble of characters and the actors who play them so well.

Prior to opening the September 13th "Revenge", I had just finished a search for " reviews of 'The Orville'". It presented a great divide. The only review in the Revenge was by a critic of questionable authority (my opinion).

<https://www.space.com/38122-the-orville-sci-fi-show-review.html>

Elisabeth Howell is a Canadian journalist whose working part-time on a PhD in Space Science. Just because she writes for "space.com" (fact based?) doesn't make her an expert on fiction based entertainment.

+ + +

A differing review by Erik Kain is more fan-like. He's also a Seth MacFarlane fan. He hits upon more of the original Star Trek qualities that many of us senior fans can relate to.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/erikkain/2017/09/10/the-critics-must-be-crazy-the-orville-is-a-delightful-homage-to-the-original-star-trek/#40cdf41271c7>

Be forewarned, some of the reviews have spoilers. Another commentary site (amusingly) listed ratings by various critics in one column and ratings by fans (viewers) in an adjacent column.

A better choice would be just to watch and draw one's own opinion. It's available on demand. I thought it was well done (especially for HD TV) and they spared no expenses. The hour long format even allowed a story line along with the subtly injected comedy. It will be interesting to see how the new Star Trek based series fairs (in comparison?). It might even cause CBS to "air" all episodes rather than streaming the bulk on their CBS-All Access (fee based) internet subscription service. It's so much closer to the old (original) Star Trek.

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Re: Amazing Stories

From: "Eric Jamborsky" mrsolo1@comcast.net

It is always interesting hearing about the many ways Hollywood screws any and everyone. (Read INDECENT EXPOSURE to see how a Columbia exec stole money from Cliff Robertson). I guess it is reassuring to see that some things remain the same. Of course, if anyone remembers just how terrible Spielberg's original AMAZING STORIES series was, there can be some comfort that the new version may be defunct. Except for the animated shows (Animaniacs, Tiny Toons) most of the shows Spielberg has produced for TV have been flops.

The wonderful world of Entertainment, devouring creative people for centuries.

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From: "Mike Waldrip" waldripk@gmail.com

Hurricane Categories



Know your hurricane categories, be safe!

<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>

Just got this in an email and had to share:

MEDICAL EXAMS ... actual physician experiences

1. Man comes into the ER and yells . . . 'My wife's going to have her baby in the cab. 'I grabbed my stuff, rushed out to the cab, lifted the lady's dress and began to take off her underwear. Suddenly I noticed that there were several cabs - - - and I was in the wrong one.

Submitted by Dr. Mark Mac Donald, San Francisco

2... At the beginning of my shift I placed a stethoscope on an elderly and slightly deaf female patient's anterior chest wall.

'Big breaths,' I instructed.

'Yes, they used to be,' replied the patient.

Submitted by Dr. Richard Byrnes , Seattle , WA

3. One day I had to be the bearer of bad news when I told a wife that her husband had died of a massive myocardial infarct. Not more than five minutes later, I heard her reporting to the rest of the family that he had died of a 'massive internal fart.'

Submitted by Dr. Susan Steinberg

4. During a patient's two week follow-up appointment with his cardiologist, he informed me, his doctor, that he was having trouble with one of his medications.

'Which one?'. I asked.

'The patch. The Nurse told me to put on a new one every six hours and now I'm running out of places to put it!' I had him quickly undress and discovered what I hoped I wouldn't see.

Yes, the man had over fifty patches on his body!

Now, the instructions include: "Please remove the old patch before applying a new one."

Submitted by Dr. Rebecca St. Clair, Norfolk, VA

5. While acquainting myself with a new elderly patient, I asked, 'How long have you been bedridden?>> After a look of complete confusion she answered .' Why, not for about twenty years - when my husband was alive.'

Submitted by Dr. Steven Swanson- Corvallis , OR

6. I was performing rounds at the hospital one morning and while checking up on a man I asked . . . 'So how's your breakfast this morning?'

"It's very good except for the Kentucky Jelly. I can't seem to get used to the taste," Bob replied.

I then asked to see the jelly and Bob produced a foil packet labeled 'KY Jelly.'

Submitted by Dr. Leonard Kransdorf, Detroit , MI

7. A nurse was on duty in the Emergency Room when a young woman with purple hair styled into a punk rocker Mohawk, sporting a variety of tattoos, and wearing strange clothing, entered It was quickly determined that the patient had acute appendicitis, so she was scheduled for immediate surgery.

When she was completely disrobed on the operating table, the staff noticed that her pubic hair had been dyed green and above it there was a tattoo that read . . . ' Keep off the grass.' Once the surgery was completed, the surgeon wrote a short note on the patient's dressing, which said 'Sorry . . . had to mow the lawn.'

Submitted by RN no name

AND FINALLY!!

8. As a new, young MD doing his residency in OB. I was quite embarrassed when performing female pelvic exams... To cover my embarrassment I had unconsciously formed a habit of whistling softly. The middle-aged lady upon whom I was performing this exam suddenly burst out laughing and further embarrassing me. I looked up from my work and sheepishly said. . 'I'm sorry. Was I tickling you?' She replied with tears running down her cheeks from laughing so hard.

'No doctor but the song you were whistling was.

'I wish I was an Oscar Meyer Wiener.'

Dr. wouldn't submit his name.

Baby's First Doctor Visit

A woman and a baby were in the doctor's examining room, waiting for the doctor to come in for the baby's first exam. The doctor arrived, and examined the baby, checked his weight, and being a little concerned, asked if the baby was breast-fed or bottle-fed. 'Breast-fed,' she replied. 'Well, strip down to your waist,' the doctor ordered.

She did. He pinched her nipples, pressed, kneaded, and rubbed both breasts for a while in a very professional and detailed examination.

Motioning to her to get dressed, the doctor said, 'No wonder this baby is underweight. You don't have any milk.'

I know,' she said, 'I'm his Grandma, But I'm glad I came.

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From: "Bob Bolgeo" bbolgeo@aol.com

SMILE OF THE DAY

A man returning home a day early from a business trip got into a taxi at the airport. It was after midnight. While en route to his home, he asked the cabby if he would be a witness.

The man suspected his wife was having an affair and he intended to catch her in the act. For \$100, the cabby agreed.

Quietly arriving at the house, the husband and cabby tiptoed into the bedroom. The husband switched on the lights, yanked the blanket back and there was his wife in bed with another man.

The husband put a gun to the naked man's head. The wife shouted: "Don't do it! This man has been very generous! I lied when I told you I inherited money. He paid for the Corvette I bought for you. He paid for our new cabin cruiser. He paid for our house at the lake. He paid for our country club membership, and he even pays the monthly dues!"

Shaking his head from side-to-side the husband slowly lowered the gun. He looked over at the cab driver and said, "what would you do?"

The cabby said, "I'd cover his ass up with that blanket before he catches a cold."

<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>~<of>~<the>~<W>~<E>~<E>~<K>

From: "Len Kaplan" jslkkaplan@verizon.net

I just heard this one on IRC - I have no idea where it came from originally:

"With the rise of self-driving vehicles, there will eventually be a country song about how your truck left you too

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From: "Ray Beloate" beerman@rittermail.com

HOLY DAY SET BY FLORIDA COURT

This is great!! I know God is giggling!

A Florida Court Sets Atheist Holy Day!

Gotta love this Judge! A proper decision by the courts.....for a change.

A FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood and objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honor, How can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counselor, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said," Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' ; Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool.

Therefore, April 1st is his day!!!

Court is adjourned!"

You gotta love a Judge who knows his Scripture!

<YOU>~<>~<JUST>~<>~<CAN'T>~<>~<MAKE>~<>~<THIS>~<>~<STUFF>~<>~<UP!>

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Michael Ankenbrandt" michael@fargazers.com

Feds Spend \$587,441 to Make Engineering a 'Safe Zone' for LGBTQ Students

Study seeks to combat 'chilly' environment for LGBTQ engineers

BY: [Elizabeth Harrington](#) September 18, 2017 5:00 am

<http://freebeacon.com/politics/feds-spend-587441-make-engineering-safe-zone-lgbtq-students/>

Engineer Daniel Schubert (left) and student apprentice Alexander Bell (right) talk to each other in a laboratory / Getty Images

The National Science Foundation is spending over \$100,000 to create "safe zone" inclusion training so more members of the LGBTQ community become engineers.

The project, which will not start until January 2018, is a joint study being conducted by the American Society For Engineering Education, Rowan University, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The focus of the study is to find ways to combat what the researchers call a "chilly" environment for lesbian, gay, and transgender individuals in engineering labs.



The project, which will not start until January 2018, is a joint study being conducted by the American Society For Engineering Education, Rowan University, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The focus of the study is to find ways to combat what the researchers call a "chilly" environment for lesbian, gay, and transgender individuals in engineering labs.

Two separate grants totaling \$587,441 were awarded Thursday. A grant worth [\\$473,325](#) was awarded to the American Society For Engineering Education, and [\\$114,116](#) was given to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"Recent research on the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) individuals in engineering has shown that the climate can be unfriendly (or 'chilly') for both students and professionals," according to the [grant](#) for the study. "This project aims to increase the inclusion of LGBTQ students and professionals in engineering."

The study aims to "foster inclusion" and allow college faculty and professors to "become change agents."

"The project will identify issues faced by LGBTQ students and professionals in engineering, identify and implement strategies to create more welcoming engineering environments, and disseminate those strategies so that they can be expanded to a national level," the grant states.

The study also involves creating an online course called "SafeZone," which can train college engineering professors how to be inclusive to gay students and other sexual minorities.

"In addition, the research will be the basis of systematic development and formative refinement of an online SafeZone course to provide inclusion training to engineering students and professionals nationwide," the grant states.

"A chilly climate for LGBTQ individual [sic] can be found in every sector of STEM professions, where cultural norms and professional ideologies make it difficult to recognize and rectify exclusionary practices," the grant states. "One negative consequence of this chilly environment is difficulty in recruiting and retaining talented LGBTQ individuals into the engineering profession."

"This project uses qualitative research to generate new knowledge about the processes of developing a community of practice to promote LGBTQ inclusion in engineering, how the members of the community develop into change agents, and what strategies are effective in reshaping norms and increasing LGBTQ inclusion in engineering departments," the grant added.

Kelly Cross, research scientist for the University of Illinois, Stephanie Farrell, the chair of experiential engineering education at Rowan University, and Rocio Chavela Guerra of the American Society for Engineering Education, are leading the study.

Cross list of [research interests](#) includes "diversity and inclusion in STEM, intersectionality, teamwork and communication skills, assessment, and identity construction."

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From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

THESE ULTRA-THIN AND FLEXIBLE SOLAR PANELS CAN STICK TO ANY SURFACE LIKE WALLPAPER

By: Nidhi Goyal | September 9th, 2017

http://www.industrytap.com/ultra-thin-flexible-solar-panels-can-stick-surface-like-wallpaper/43636?utm_source=Industry+Tap&utm_campaign=dba9b82c20-Industry+Tap+Volume+4299+12+2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_05d6224fe0-dba9b82c20-44103165

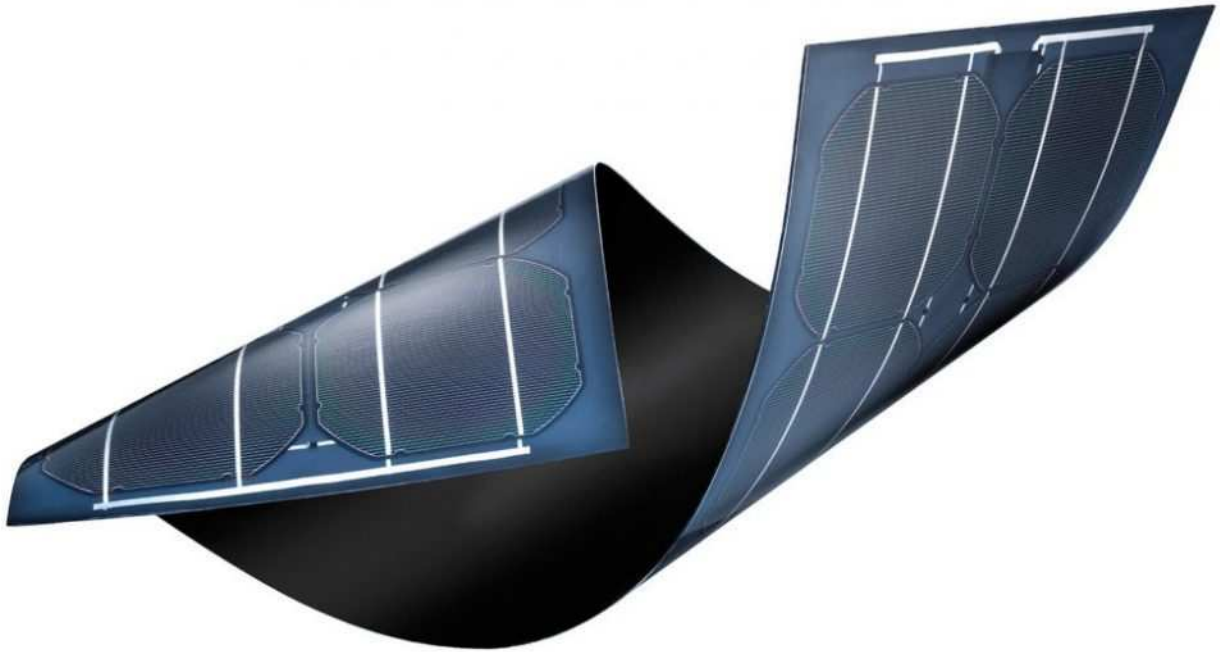


Image courtesy of Sunflare

Traditional solar panels are bulky and fragile. They are made from materials like glass, silicon wafers and aluminum that are expensive and difficult to install. But just imagine an ultra-thin, flexible, and affordable solar panel that could be attached to almost any surface, whether it be vertical, horizontal or even curved, to capture solar energy.

This is exactly what Sunflare, a Los Angeles-based startup has developed. Sunflare has unveiled an ultra-thin CIGS solar panel that can be attached to any surface with just a layer of tape like wallpaper. They have named it Capture4.

Capture4 is ideal for areas inaccessible to traditional panels

* The panel is just a few micrometers thick. It does not require an aluminum frame nor does it need to be placed on a rooftop.

Capture4 beats traditional solar panels on every front

* Compared to crystalline silicon, Sunflare's CIGS solar panel does not use a glass substrate. It has thinner layers of semiconductors and is environmentally cleaner because it does not use toxic chemicals.

* These thin-film solar cells are made with copper, indium, gallium, and selenide (CIGS). They generate around 10 percent more power and weigh almost 65 percent less than the traditional panels.

* At a comparable cost of just \$1.07 per watt, Sunflare's CIGS solar cells are affordable, too.

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LOCKHEED MARTIN REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR SIKORSKY'S RAIDER

Second prototype will be completed to fulfill goals of high-speed helicopter program

Sep 14, 2017 James Drew and Graham Warwick | Aviation Week & Space Technology

http://aviationweek.com/defense/lockheed-martin-reaffirms-support-sikorsky-s-raider?NL=AW-05&Issue=AW-05_20170915_AW-05_900&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_2&utm_rid=CPEN1000003019593&utm_campaign=11735&utm_medium=email&elq2=290076c2362f4fca91897c10b214acbc

Sikorsky was tantalizingly close to achieving its goal of exceeding 220 kt. with the S-97 Raider coaxial-rotor helicopter when the prototype made a hard landing on Aug. 2, after experiencing flight control problems. But Lockheed Martin, which acquired Sikorsky in 2015 when the industry-funded Raider program was well underway, has been quick to reiterate its commitment to the high-speed light tactical helicopter.

The incident at Sikorsky's development flight center in West Palm Beach, Florida, came as the 6,000-lb. Raider was taxiing out to begin its 15th test flight, with the target of achieving 180 kt.—its highest speed yet. The goal of exceeding 220 kt. was planned for the next flight, its 16th. Achieving that objective will now have to wait until after the second prototype is completed and flown in 2018.

The fly-by-wire (FBW) Raider was taxiing to its takeoff position when the mishap occurred. The digital flight control system unexpectedly transitioned from simple ground mode to augmented flight mode before the aircraft became airborne. The crew lifted into a hover but, unable to stabilize the helicopter, quickly put it back on the ground, the



Raider coming down heavily, upright and level on the runway. The two company test pilots powered down the engine and shut off the electrics before egressing. The Raider suffered substantial damage, but they escaped with minor injuries—the impact-absorbing landing gear, composite airframe and crew seats working as designed.

The first Raider prototype had reached 150 kt. and completed some maneuvering tests by the time of its hard landing. Credit: Sikorsky

Investigation is ongoing with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), but Sikorsky says its other fly-by-wire helicopters—the CH-53K and CH-148 Cyclone—are not affected, as implementation of the Raider’s triplex-redundant control system is different. But any lessons learned from the investigation are being shared with the Sikorsky/Boeing team developing the SB-1 Defiant Joint Multi-Role demonstrator. Expected to fly by mid-2018, the 30,000-lb. SB-1 shares the same coaxial-rotor/pusher-propeller X2 configuration and a similar FBW control system.

The NTSB has issued only a brief preliminary report, but the suspected cause is a flight-control software issue relating to the “complex interaction between the ground, the landing gear, the flight control system and the pilot,” says Chris Van Buiten, vice president of Sikorsky Innovations. The failure has been reproduced in the S-97 flight simulator, and software changes are being made “to ensure it never happens again.”

Damage to the first prototype is a setback for an industry effort that has slowed significantly since its launch in 2010 as a \$200 million follow-on to the Sikorsky-funded X2 Technology Demonstrator, which reached a speed of 262 kt. that year. The Raider first flew in May 2015 with the goal of achieving its key performance objectives by the middle of 2016. But changing customer plans, technical challenges and Sikorsky’s integration into Lockheed all slowed the pace.

The mishap was not related to the coaxial rigid-rotor X2 configuration, says Van Buiten, and Lockheed’s leadership has committed to return Raider to flight once the cause is fully established. Aircraft 1 will continue to support the investigation, so the second prototype, assembly of which had been halted, will be completed and flown in 2018. Changes made to the first prototype as a result of 20 hr. of flight tests and 100 hr. of ground runs will be incorporated into Aircraft 2 before it flies.

After shakedown flights, the goal is to pick up where Aircraft 1 left off and continue expanding the flight envelope beyond 150 kt., out to the maximum speed goal. But more than that, Sikorsky is looking at arming the second Raider for mission demos. Once the S-97 finally achieves its 220-kt. target, the company aims to demonstrate complex maneuvers, including 3g turns, hovering nose-up and nose-down using the prop, as well as rapid level-attitude acceleration and deceleration.

Sikorsky will also install a weapons suite and other mission systems now being matured in the Raider systems integration laboratory. The weapons will include podded machine guns, Lockheed’s next-generation Hellfire—the Joint Air-to-Ground Missile—and BAE Systems’ Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System laser-guided rocket.

When Raider was launched with support from more than 30 suppliers, Sikorsky had its sights set firmly on the U.S. Army’s Advanced Aerial Scout (AAS) requirement to replace the Bell OH-58D Kiowa Warrior. But AAS was shelved in 2013, and the OH-58Ds have now retired, replaced with retooled Boeing AH-64E Apaches. The Army’s priority has shifted to the Future Vertical Lift (FVL) Medium program to replace the workhorse Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk—for which Sikorsky Boeing’s SB-1 is competing with Bell’s V-280 Valor tiltrotor.

Lockheed's restated, post-crash commitment to Sikorsky's Raider reflects the high-speed helicopter's continued value, both in reducing risk for the SB-1 and in keeping options alive for a future FVL Light program to develop a true replacement for the OH-58D armed scout, as well as the Army's special-operations Boeing MH-6 Little Bird. "We remain bullish about the program," says Van Buiten.

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RIP, CASSINI: HISTORIC MISSION ENDS WITH FIERY PLUNGE INTO SATURN

By Calla Cofield, Space.com Senior Writer | September 15, 2017 07:16am ET

https://www.space.com/38167-cassini-spacecraft-plunges-into-saturn.html?utm_source=sd-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20170915-sdc

PASADENA, Calif.— And just like that, it was gone.



The Cassini spacecraft has plunged into Saturn, sending back its final communications before burning up in the ringed planet's atmosphere.

Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

NASA received its last data transmission from the Cassini spacecraft at 4:55:46 a.m. PDT (7:55:46 a.m. EDT, 1146 GMT) today (Sept. 15), before losing contact with the probe as it hurtled into Saturn's atmosphere. It was a fiery grand finale for the probe, which spent 13 years orbiting the ringed planet. NASA officials expect that Cassini broke apart about 45

seconds after that final transmission, due to the intense friction and heat generated by the fall.

"I hope you're all ... deeply proud of this amazing accomplishment," Earl Maize, the Cassini program manager, said to the mission team after the spacecraft signal was lost. "Congratulations to you all. This has been an incredible mission, an incredible spacecraft, and you're all an incredible team. I'm going to call this the end of mission."

The final stream of data from Cassini was received at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in southern California. The spacecraft communicated with Earth via the Deep Space Network, a series of telescopes around the world that keep contact with spacecraft that fly beyond the moon. The Deep Space Network is managed from JPL.

During Cassini's final moments, mission scientists and team members watched anxiously as data continued to come in from the spacecraft as it hurtled through Saturn's atmosphere. The signal was lost when Cassini could no longer keep its antenna pointed at Earth, due to the intense friction created by its fall through the atmosphere. Maize said he anticipated that the probe would completely break apart about 45 seconds later. The team members stood and applauded somberly when Maize announced end of mission.

"This is a historic moment, and I think the mood reflects that," Morgan Cable, a research scientist at JPL, said of the event. "This is a celebration of an amazing mission and incredible legacy."

In Cassini's final months and days, scientists and the public alike have voiced their affection for the space probe and the incredible discoveries it made.

"[I'm] feeling the love, if I may be so corny," Maize said when asked about the public outpouring. "It's just very heartening. Because it's part of what we try to do — to extend everybody out to Saturn. It's not [just for] scientists in the ivory tower; it's for humanity. And so for everybody to get on the ride ... it is just phenomenal."



Members of the Cassini team and other JPL employees watch the final minutes of the Cassini mission, next to a full-scale model of the spacecraft. Credit: Calla Cofield/Space.com

Cassini's descent into Saturn was intentional. The spacecraft was rapidly running out of fuel, after spending nearly 20 years in space, and NASA scientists decided to make use of the mission's inevitable conclusion. By crashing into Saturn, Cassini had the opportunity to see what the planet's upper atmosphere is

made of, and that's the data that the probe sent back to Earth during its final few moments of life. The probe took its last images of the Saturn system yesterday (Sept. 14), and transmitted those images back to Earth the same day, ahead of its plunge.

During its 13-year tenure at Saturn, Cassini captured breathtaking images of the ringed planet, revealing swirling storms and a hexagonal jet stream swirling around Saturn's north pole. The probe saw strange features in the planet's ring system, found evidence of meteors crashing through the rings in the past, and watched as the planet's many moons caused the rings to change and evolve.

The spacecraft discovered new moons around Saturn; the planet has 53 named moons and another nine unnamed moons, and there are many more small objects that might one day be confirmed as moons. Cassini found geysers erupting from the surface of the large, icy moon Enceladus. Further study of the geysers has since indicated that Enceladus' subsurface water ocean might have conditions suitable for life. Cassini revealed new details about the strange surface of the moon Titan, which is dotted with liquid methane lakes, rivers and oceans.

"We left the world informed but still wondering," Maize said during a news conference Wednesday (Sept. 13). "I could not ask for more."

The \$3.26 billion Cassini-Huygens mission — a joint effort by NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency — launched in 1997 and arrived at the Saturn system in 2004. In 2005, the Huygens lander dropped onto the surface of Saturn's largest moon, Titan, revealing the hidden world beneath its opaque, orange atmosphere. The Cassini orbiter's initial mission was meant to last until 2008 but was extended twice, stretching the spacecraft's life to 2017.

The Cassini team cheers, hugs and cries after receiving the final signal from Cassini that indicated the mission had come to an end with the spacecraft's disintegration in Saturn's atmosphere. Credit: Joel Kowski/NASA/UPI/Newscom



"One of the greatest legacies of the mission is not just the scientific discoveries it makes, and what you learn about, but the fact that you make discoveries that are so compelling that you have to go back," said Mike Watkins, director of JPL. "We will go back and fly through the geysers of Enceladus, we will go back and look at Titan, because the Cassini findings are just groundbreaking."

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THE 2017 IG NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

<http://www.improbable.com/ig/winners/>

The 2017 Ig Nobel Prizes were awarded on Thursday night, September 14, 2017 at the 27th First Annual Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony, at Harvard's Sanders Theatre. The ceremony was webcast[we will put a link up here soon] .

PHYSICS PRIZE [FRANCE, SINGAPORE, USA] — Marc-Antoine Fardin, for using fluid dynamics to probe the question "Can a Cat Be Both a Solid and a Liquid?"

REFERENCE: "On the Rheology of Cats," Marc-Antoine Fardin, Rheology Bulletin, vol. 83, 2, July 2014, pp. 16-17 and 30.

WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY: Marc-Antoine Fardin

PEACE PRIZE [SWITZERLAND, CANADA, THE NETHERLANDS, USA] — Milo Puhan, Alex Suarez, Christian Lo Cascio, Alfred Zahn, Markus Heitz, and Otto Braendli, for demonstrating that regular playing of a didgeridoo is an effective treatment for obstructive sleep apnoea and snoring.

REFERENCE: "Didgeridoo Playing as Alternative Treatment for Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Syndrome: Randomised Controlled Trial," Milo A. Puhan, Alex Suarez, Christian Lo Cascio, Alfred Zahn, Markus Heitz and Otto Braendli, BMJ, vol. 332 December 2006.

WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY: Milo Puhan, Christian Lo Cascio, Markus Heitz, Alex Suarez. NOTE: Alex Suarez was the first patient, and was the inspiration for the study.

ECONOMICS PRIZE [AUSTRALIA, USA] — Matthew Rockloff and Nancy Greer, for their experiments to see how contact with a live crocodile affects a person's willingness to gamble.

REFERENCE: "Never Smile at a Crocodile: Betting on Electronic Gaming Machines is Intensified by Reptile-Induced Arousal," Matthew J. Rockloff and Nancy Greer, Journal of Gambling Studies, vol. 26, no. 4, December 2010, pp. 571-81.

WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY: Matthew Rockloff and Nancy Greer

ANATOMY PRIZE [UK] — James Heathcote, for his medical research study "Why Do Old Men Have Big Ears?"

REFERENCE: "Why Do Old Men Have Big Ears?" James A. Heathcote, British Medical Journal, vol. 311, 1995, p. 1668.

WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY: James Heathcote

BIOLOGY PRIZE [JAPAN, BRAZIL, SWITZERLAND] — Kazunori Yoshizawa, Rodrigo Ferreira, Yoshitaka Kamimura, and Charles Lienhard, for their discovery of a female penis, and a male vagina, in a cave insect.

REFERENCE: "Female Penis, Male Vagina and Their Correlated Evolution in a Cave Insect," Kazunori Yoshizawa, Rodrigo L. Ferreira, Yoshitaka Kamimura, Charles Lienhard, Current Biology, vol. 24, no. 9, 2014, pp. 1006-1010.

WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY: They delivered a short video acceptance speech, filmed in a cave.

FLUID DYNAMICS PRIZE [SOUTH KOREA, USA] — Jiwon Han, for studying the dynamics of liquid-sloshing, to learn what happens when a person walks backwards while carrying a cup of coffee. REFERENCE: "A Study on the Coffee Spilling Phenomena in the Low Impulse Regime," Jiwon Han, Achievements in the Life Sciences, vol. 10, no. 1, 2016, pp. 87-101.

WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY: Jiwon ("Jesse") Han

NOTE: Jiwon Han was a high school student when he wrote the paper, at Korean Minjok Leadership Academy, Gangwon-do, Republic of Korea.

NUTRITION PRIZE [BRAZIL, CANADA, SPAIN] — Fernanda Ito, Enrico Bernard, and Rodrigo Torres, for the first scientific report of human blood in the diet of the hairy-legged vampire bat

REFERENCE: "What is for Dinner? First Report of Human Blood in the Diet of the Hairy-Legged Vampire Bat *Diphylla ecaudata*," Fernanda Ito, Enrico Bernard, and Rodrigo A. Torres, *Acta Chiropterologica*, vol. 18, no. 2, December 2016, pp. 509-515.

WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY: The winners delivered their acceptance speech via recorded video.

MEDICINE PRIZE [FRANCE, UK] — Jean-Pierre Royet, David Meunier, Nicolas Torquet, Anne-Marie Mouly and Tao Jiang, for using advanced brain-scanning technology to measure the extent to which some people are disgusted by cheese.

REFERENCE: "The Neural Bases of Disgust for Cheese: An fMRI Study," Jean-Pierre Royet, David Meunier, Nicolas Torquet, Anne-Marie Mouly and Tao Jiang, *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, vol. 10, October 2016, article 511.

WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY: The winners delivered their acceptance speech via recorded video.

COGNITION PRIZE [ITALY, SPAIN, UK] — Matteo Martini, Ilaria Bufalari, Maria Antonietta Stazi, and Salvatore Maria Aglioti, for demonstrating that many identical twins cannot tell themselves apart visually.

REFERENCE: "Is That Me or My Twin? Lack of Self-Face Recognition Advantage in Identical Twins," Matteo Martini, Ilaria Bufalari, Maria Antonietta Stazi, Salvatore Maria Aglioti, *PLoS ONE*, vol. 10, no. 4, 2015: e0120900.

WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY: Matteo Martini, Ilaria Bufalari

OBSTETRICS PRIZE — [SPAIN] — Marisa López-Teijón, Álex García-Faura, Alberto Prats-Galino, and Luis Pallarés Aniorte, for showing that a developing human fetus responds more strongly to music that is played electromechanically inside the mother's vagina than to music that is played electromechanically on the mother's belly.

REFERENCE: "Fetal Facial Expression in Response to Intravaginal Music Emission," Marisa López-Teijón, Álex García-Faura, and Alberto Prats-Galino, *Ultrasound*, November 2015, vol. 23, no. 4, pp. 216–223.

REFERENCE: "Fetal Acoustic Stimulation Device," patent ES2546919B1, granted September 29, 2015 to Luis y Pallarés Aniorte and Maria Luisa López-Teijón Pérez.

WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY: Marisa López-Teijón, Álex García-Faura, Alberto Prats-Galino, and Luis Pallarés Aniorte

NOTE: They also offer a product based on this research The product is named "Babypod".

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1,000 TRUCKLOADS OF ORANGE PEELS NOW LUSH, GREEN JUNGLE

By: [Nidhi Goyal](#) | September 15th, 2017

http://www.industrytap.com/1000-truckloads-orange-peels-now-lush-green-jungle/43777?utm_source=Industry+Tap&utm_campaign=bc0860d2d3-Industry+Tap+Volume+4309+18+2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_05d6224fe0-bc0860d2d3-44103165

In 1997, Daniel Janzen and Winnie Hallwachs, two ecologists from the University of Pennsylvania, approached a local juice company, Del Oro in Costa Rica, with a unique proposal.

The pair told the company if it agreed to donate part of its forested land bordering the Guanacaste Conservation Area to the national park, it could dump its discarded orange peels for biodegradation, at no cost, on barren land in the national park.

Del Oro agreed and donated a 7-acre (3-hectare) plot on the edge of the Guanacaste Conservation Area and dumped around 12,000 tons of orange peel, 1,000 truckloads worth, on the degraded land of the park over the course of a year.

The conservation experiment did not last long once the orange peels turned into a thick, black sludge

Just a year into the contract, rival company TicoFruit sued Del Oro, alleging that it was staining the national park. TicoFruit won the case. Costa Rica's Supreme Court agreed and the experiment came to a halt.

The land was largely forgotten for the next few years. But 16 years later, in the summer of 2013, ecologists visited the site to see if there had been any changes. To their amazement, the wasteland had transformed into a lush, green jungle. The dumped orange peel regenerated the barren land in only 16 years.

Instead of destroying the land, a simple act of dumping wisely may bring about a great benefit for Mother Nature.



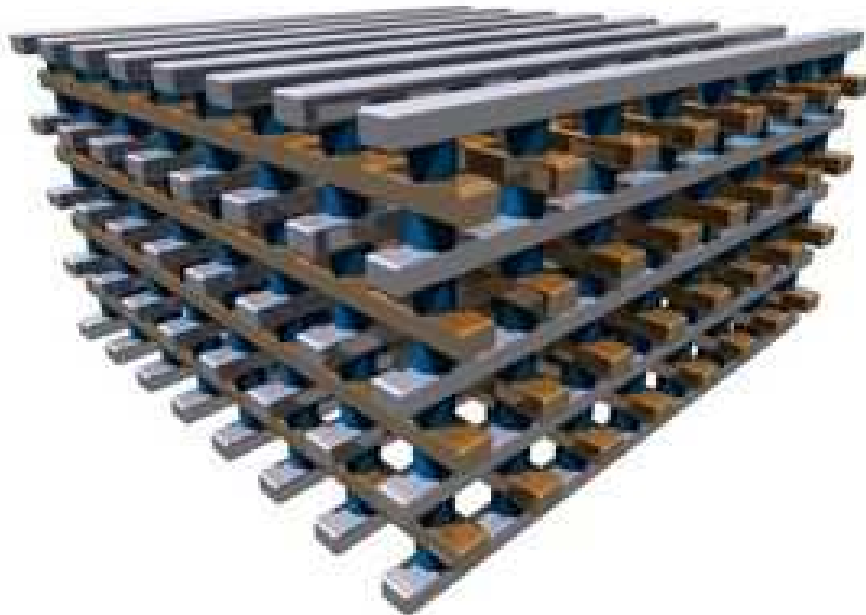
Image courtesy Daniel Janzen and Winnie Hallwachs

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RERAM: WILL NEW MEMORY DEVICE REPLACE FLASH?

By: [James Ross](#) | September 12th, 2017

http://www.industrytap.com/reram-will-new-memory-device-replace-flash/43748?utm_source=Industry+Tap&utm_campaign=bc0860d2d3-Industry+Tap+Volume+4309+18+2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_05d6224fe0-bc0860d2d3-44103165

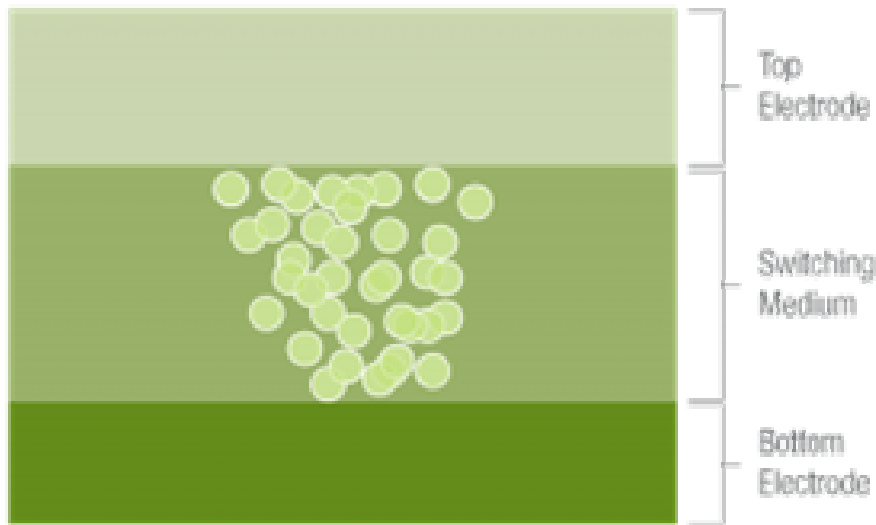


Crossbar ReRAM memory cell. Image courtesy of Crossbar.

Keep an eye out for Resistive Random-Access Memory (ReRAM), an up-and-coming type of computer memory technology. ReRAM is currently under development by a number of companies—including Panasonic, HP, Adesto Technologies, and Crossbar, among others. It is the likely replacement for, and massive improvement upon, Flash memory. At the moment, the costs and performance of ReRAM are not at a level that makes the technology ready for the mass market. But, there is a tremendous potential in this type of memory device, and it is on the verge of becoming a part of the digital mainstream.

What is it?

To put it very simply, ReRAM memory device is based on a three-layer structure: two outer layers of electrode material and an inner layer of some type of dielectric material, referred to as a [memristor](#). When an electric current is applied, the resistance of the dielectric material changes. This change of resistance can be measured and read as a 1 or a 0. ReRAM is a memory type known as non-volatile. This means that the device can hold saved data even when the power to the device is turned off.



ReRAM three-layer structure. Image courtesy of Crossbar.

Why do we need it?

Flash memory, found in the familiar USB memory sticks we all use, is also a non-volatile type, but ReRAM offers some significant advantages over Flash.

Compared to Flash, ReRAM is much faster. According to Crossbar,

one of the major players in the race to bring the technology to the masses, the new memory tech delivers 100 times lower read latency and 1000 times faster write performance than Flash. It has 20 times lower power consumption than NAND Flash, and lasts 1000 times longer—that adds up to many more read-write cycles. ReRAM is made with CMOS-friendly materials and can be made with standard manufacturing processes.

And then there is perhaps the biggest advantage: The potential for massive amounts of storage in unbelievably small amounts of space. We'll let Crossbar explain this.

Crossbar ReRAM technology can be stacked in 3D, delivering multiple terabytes of storage on a single chip. Its simplicity, stackability and CMOS compatibility enable logic and memory to be integrated onto a single chip at the latest technology node (see lead image at the top of this article).

Crossbar's patented built-in selector allows various memory array configurations in which a single transistor can drive one or thousands of memory cells. This enables Crossbar cells to be organized in super dense 3D cross-point arrays, stackable with the capability to scale below 10nm, paving the way for terabytes on a single die.

It could very well be the future of memory. And it could become a big part of your life soon

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PRATT & WHITNEY COMPLETES MILESTONE IN NEXT-GEN ENGINE TESTING

Sep 18, 2017 [Lara Seligman](#) | Aerospace Daily & Defense Report

http://aviationweek.com/program-management-corner/pratt-whitney-completes-milestone-next-gen-engine-testing?NL=AW-05&Issue=AW-05_20170919_AW-05_261&sfc4enews=42&cl=article_4&utm_rid=CPEN1000003019593&utm_campaign=11761&utm_medium=email&elq2=aa55718bbbd045b6b4d96a2f52692974

Pratt & Whitney has successfully completed testing of an adaptive three-stream fan in an engine with an [F135](#) core, a key step in the development of next-generation fighter propulsion technology.

Preliminary data from the test indicates Pratt's fan "has met or exceeded expectations with respect to performance as well as the integrity of the turbofan machinery and fan module," said Matthew Bromberg, president of Pratt & Whitney Military Engines, according to a company press release.

"This is an important milestone on the path toward the advancement and maturation of a next generation adaptive engine which will enable the warfighter to stay well ahead of future and emerging threats," Bromberg said.

Pratt and competitor [General Electric](#) are working to test technology for a new generation of fighter engines as part of the U.S. Air Force's Adaptive Engine Technology Development (AETD) program. Under the follow on adaptive engine transfer program, Pratt and GE are developing demonstrators—Pratt's XA101 and GE's competing XA100—to pave the way for an adaptive, 45,000-lb.-thrust-class combat powerplant, as well as the possible re-engining of the [F-35](#) Joint Strike Fighter.

This new class of combat aircraft propulsion systems is based on three-stream adaptive engine technology. The third stream provides an extra source of air flow that, depending on the phase of the mission, is designed to provide either additional mass flow for increased propulsive efficiency and lower fuel burn for longer endurance, or additional air flow through the core for higher thrust and cooling air to boost combat performance.

Utilizing a third stream of air that can be modulated to adapt the engine's performance across the flight envelope means a fighter can have "the best of both worlds," Pratt claims, allow it to smoothly shift from efficient cruise operations to increased thrust in combat scenarios.

The goal of AETD is to provide a 25% reduction in fuel consumption and a 10% improvement in thrust levels compared to today's fifth-generation combat aircraft engines. Pratt also is maturing other advanced propulsion technologies it considers key to high-speed and long-endurance performance requirements, including adaptive control systems and improved integrated power and thermal management capacity.

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DELINGPOLE: CLIMATE ALARMISTS FINALLY ADMIT 'WE WERE WRONG ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING'

by [JAMES DELINGPOLE](#) 19 Sep 2017 2,960

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/09/19/delingpole-climate-alarmists-finally-admit-we-were-wrong-about-global-warming/>

Climate alarmists have finally admitted that they've got it wrong on global warming.

This is the inescapable conclusion of a landmark paper, published in [Nature Geoscience](#), which finally admits that the computer models have overstated the impact of carbon dioxide on climate and that the planet is warming more slowly than predicted.



Peter Macdiarmid/Getty

The paper – titled Emission budgets and pathways consistent with limiting warming to 1.5 °C – concedes that it is now almost impossible that the doomsday predictions made in the last IPCC Assessment Report of 1.5 degrees C warming above pre-industrial levels by 2022 will come true.

In order for that to happen, temperatures would have to rise by a massive 0.5 degrees C in five years.

Since global mean temperatures rarely rise by even as much as 0.25 degrees C in a decade, that would mean the planet would have to do 20 years' worth of extreme warming in the space of the next five years.

This, the scientists admit, is next to impossible. Which means their "carbon budget" – the amount of CO₂ they say is needed to increase global warming by a certain degree – is wrong. This in turn means that the computer models they've been using to scare the world with tales of man-made climate doom are wrong too.

One researcher – from the alarmist side of the argument, not the skeptical one – has described the paper's conclusion as ["breathtaking"](#) in its implications.

He's right. The scientists who've written this paper aren't climate skeptics. They're longstanding warmists, implacable foes of climate skeptics, and they're also actually the people responsible for producing the IPCC's carbon budget.

In other words, this represents the most massive climbdown from the alarmist camp.

But you certainly wouldn't guess this from the way the scientists are trying to spin their report.

According to the London [Times](#):

Michael Grubb, professor of international energy and climate change at University College London and one of the study's authors, admitted that his previous prediction had been wrong.

He stated during the climate summit in Paris in December 2015: "All the evidence from the past 15 years leads me to conclude that actually delivering 1.5C is simply incompatible with democracy."

Speaking to The Times, he said: "When the facts change, I change my mind, as Keynes said.

"It's still likely to be very difficult to achieve these kind of changes quickly enough but we are in a better place than I thought."

and

Myles Allen, professor of geosystem science at the University of Oxford and another author of the paper, said: "We haven't seen that rapid acceleration in warming after 2000 that we see in the models. We haven't seen that in the observations."

He said that the group of about a dozen computer models, produced by government research institutes and universities around the world, had been assembled a decade ago "so it's not that surprising that it's starting to divert a little bit from observations".

He said that too many of the models used "were on the hot side", meaning they forecast too much warming.

Note the disingenuousness here.

Grubb is claiming that the facts have changed. Which they haven't. Climate skeptics have been saying for years that the IPCC climate models have been running "too hot." Indeed, the [Global Warming Policy Foundation](#) produced a paper stating this three years ago. Naturally it was ignored by alarmists who have always sought to marginalize the GWPF as a denialist institution which they claim – erroneously – is in the pay of sinister fossil fuel interests.

Allen's "so it's not that surprising" is indeed true if you're on the skeptical side of the argument. But not if, like Allen, you're one of those scientists who've spent the last 20 years scorning, mocking and vilifying all those skeptics who for years have been arguing the very point which Allen himself is now admitting is correct.

That's why Benny Peiser, of the Global Warming Policy Foundation says, this is a "landmark" moment in the history of great climate change scare.

"It's the first official confirmation we've had that CO2 is not as big a driver of climate change as the computer models have claimed; and it's the first official admission that the planet is not warming dangerously."

But this is not, unfortunately, a cause for wild celebrations in the street. ManBearPig has been scotched but by no means been slain. Nor are the alarmists yet ready to admit the full scale of their errors.

This is little more than a damage limitation exercise by scamsters who know they've been caught cheating and have now been forced to concede at least some territory to their opponents for fear of looking ridiculous.

[Paul Homewood](#) has their number:

1) We have known for several years that the climate models have been running far too hot.

This rather belated admission is welcome, but a cynic would wonder why it was not made before Paris.

2) I suspect part of the motivation is to keep Paris on track. Most observers, including even James Hansen, have realised that it was not worth the paper it was written on.

This new study is designed to restore the belief that the original climate targets can be achieved, via Paris and beyond.

3) Although they talk of the difference between 0.9C and 1.3C, the significance is much greater.

Making the reasonable assumption that a significant part of the warming since the mid 19thC is natural, this means that any AGW signal is much less than previously thought.

4) Given that that they now admit they have got it so wrong, why should we be expected to have any faith at all in the models?

5) Finally, we must remember that temperatures since 2000 have been artificially raised by the recent record El Nino, and the ongoing warm phase of the AMO.

Yup. But at least we climate skeptics have been proved right yet again, that's the main thing.

Oh, and by the way, snooty alarmist scumbags: that word you were looking for to describe the current state of global warming science is: "Sorry."

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From: "Chris Cowan" cowanc1028@earthlink.net

U.S. MOVES TO BAN KASPERSKY SOFTWARE IN FEDERAL AGENCIES AMID CONCERNS OF RUSSIAN ESPIONAGE

An employee walks by a wall at the Moscow headquarters of Internet security giant Kaspersky Lab last October. (Kirill Kudryavtsev/AFP/Getty Images)

By Ellen Nakashima and Jack Gillum September 13

The U.S. government on Wednesday moved to ban the use of a Russian brand of security software by federal agencies amid concerns the company has ties to state-sponsored cyberespionage activities.

In a binding directive, acting homeland security secretary Elaine Duke ordered that federal civilian agencies identify Kaspersky Lab software on their networks. After 90 days, unless otherwise directed, they must remove the software, on the grounds that the company has connections to the Russian government and its software poses a security risk.

The Department of Homeland Security “is concerned about the ties between certain Kaspersky officials and Russian intelligence and other government agencies, and requirements under Russian law that allow Russian intelligence agencies to request or compel assistance from Kaspersky and to intercept communications transiting Russian networks,” the department said in a statement. “The risk that the Russian government, whether acting on its own or in collaboration with Kaspersky, could capitalize on access provided by Kaspersky products to compromise federal information and information systems directly implicates U.S. national security.”

The directive comes months after the federal General Services Administration, the agency in charge of government purchasing, removed Kaspersky from its list of approved vendors. In doing so, the GSA suggested a vulnerability exists with Kaspersky that could give the Kremlin backdoor access to the systems the company protects.

The company said in a statement Wednesday that it “doesn’t have inappropriate ties with any government, which is why no credible evidence has been presented publicly by anyone or any organization to back up the false allegations made against the company.”

It also said that the Russian law requiring assistance does not apply to the company.

“Kaspersky Lab has never helped, nor will help, any government in the world with its cyberespionage or offensive cyber efforts, and it’s disconcerting that a private company can be considered guilty until proven innocent, due to geopolitical issues,” Kaspersky said. “The company looks forward to working with DHS, as Kaspersky Lab ardently believes a deeper examination of the company will substantiate that these allegations are without merit.”

The department is giving Kaspersky 90 days to prove its products are not a security risk or to mitigate the concerns.

“We’ve determined that [Kaspersky software] poses an unacceptable amount of risk based on our assessment,” said Christopher Krebs, a senior DHS official in the National Protection and Programs Directorate. “If they want to provide additional information or

mitigation strategies, our door is open.”

The directive comes in the wake of an unprecedented Russian operation to interfere in the U.S. presidential election, with Russian spy services hacking the networks of the Democratic National Committee and other political organizations and releasing damaging information.

At least a half-dozen federal agencies run Kaspersky on their networks, U.S. officials said, although there may be other networks where an agency’s chief information security officer — the official ultimately responsible for systems security — might not be aware it is being used.

The order applies only to civilian government networks. The Defense Department, which includes the National Security Agency, does not use Kaspersky software, officials said.

Meanwhile, the directive may also put pressure on state and local governments that use Kaspersky products. Many had been left to speculate about the risks of sticking with the company or abandoning taxpayer-funded contracts, sometimes at great cost. In July, The Washington Post found several state and local agencies that used Kaspersky’s anti-virus or security software had purchased or supported the software within the past two years.

The U.S. intelligence community has long assessed that Kaspersky has ties to the Russian government. The company’s founder, Eugene Kaspersky, graduated from a KGB-supported cryptography school and had worked in Russian military intelligence.

Rob Joyce, the White House cybersecurity coordinator and a former NSA official, hailed the move. The idea that data collected by software on government networks could wind up with Russian spy agencies “was an unacceptable risk,” he said Wednesday at the Billington CyberSecurity Summit in Washington.

Concerns about Kaspersky software had been brewing for years. Federal law enforcement officials warned some congressional staffers as early as November 2015 not to meet with employees from Kaspersky, because of concerns about electronic surveillance. The concerns mounted in recent months, and DHS officials saw an opportunity to take action. Last week, Best Buy announced it would stop selling Kaspersky products, because of fears of ties to Russian government.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), an outspoken critic of Kaspersky, said the DHS announcement is “a significant step forward in improving our national security and protecting against such vulnerabilities on federal systems.” She has proposed amendments to the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act that would ban the use of Kaspersky products at the Defense Department and across the government.

In announcing its July decision, the GSA underscored that its mission was to “ensure the integrity and security of U.S. government systems and networks” and that Kaspersky was delisted “after review and careful consideration.” The action removed the company from the list of products approved for purchase on federal systems and at discounted prices for state governments.

Joseph Lorenzo Hall, chief technologist at the Center for Democracy and Technology, said he is concerned the public has not seen evidence of malfeasance by Kaspersky but only

“intelligence-community rumblings about the potential for back doors” — a reference in the tech world to holes in software that allow unauthorized parties to gain access to a program or system.

But intelligence agencies have information that leads them to believe Kaspersky products are essentially conduits for Russian espionage, officials say privately. At a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing in May, the chiefs of six major U.S. spy agencies all said they would not use Kaspersky software on their computers.

Aaron C. Davis contributed to this report

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ANOTHER ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT! MEXICAN JAGUAR SPOTTED (OUCH!) IN ARIZONA

New Video Shows Wild Jaguar in Arizona

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https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2017/jaguar-09-14-2017.php

TUCSON, Ariz.— The Center for Biological Diversity released new video today of a wild jaguar currently living in the United States, named “Sombra” by students of the Paolo Freire Freedom School in Tucson. Captured on remote sensor cameras in the Chiricahua Mountains of southern Arizona, the footage shows what appears to be the same jaguar photographed in the nearby Dos Cabezas Mountains in November 2016.

“This beautiful cat has now appeared in images taken seven months apart,” said Randy Serraglio, conservation advocate with the Center. “It seems that it’s established residence in excellent habitat more than 50 miles north of the border, which is great news for jaguar recovery.”

“Our kids benefit from an educational philosophy that connects them to their world in a concrete and hands-on way,” said Tadeo Pfister, a science teacher at Paolo Freire. “They love studying these big cats, and it’s thrilling to know that they’re helping to shape a future that includes jaguars.”

The footage, shot this summer, is the first publicly released video of this jaguar. Individual jaguars’ spot patterns are unique, and biologists have compared the photographic evidence to determine that this is the same cat that was photographed last year by a camera maintained by the Bureau of Land Management.

“The really exciting part of all this is that we don’t know yet what sex Sombra is,” said Serraglio. “The possibility that it may be a female gives us a lot of hope that jaguars might jump-start their recovery in a region they’ve called home for thousands of years.”

Jaguars continue to move into Arizona from a small, vulnerable population in northern Mexico. Seven jaguars have been confirmed by photographs in the United States in the

past 20 years, including most recently:

* The jaguar named “El Jefe” by Tucson middle school students was photographed by trail cameras more than 100 times in the Santa Rita Mountains near Tucson between 2012 and 2015. Video footage of El Jefe released in February 2016 went viral and was seen by millions of people around the globe.

* A male jaguar, named “Yo’ko” by students at Hiaki High School on the Pascua Yaqui reservation, has been photographed repeatedly between December 2016 and May 2017 by trail cameras in the Huachuca Mountains in southern Arizona. Yo’ko appears to have established a territory on the Fort Huachuca military reservation.

* “Sombra,” which is Spanish for “shadow,” is the third U.S. jaguar detected in the past three years, originally photographed in November 2016 in the Dos Cabezas Mountains just north of the Chiricahuas. If it’s female, it would be the first one documented in the U.S. since the last known female was shot in 1963 in Arizona’s Mogollon Rim, hundreds of miles north of the border.

“Part of ensuring the survival and recovery of the northern jaguar population is stopping Trump’s horrendous border wall,” said Serraglio. “These cats must be able to move back and forth across the border as they travel long distances to find mates and establish new territories.”

Background

Jaguars are the third-largest cats in the world after tigers and lions. They once lived throughout the American Southwest, with historical records on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, the mountains of Southern California and as far east as Louisiana. Jaguars virtually disappeared from this part of their range over the past 150 years, primarily due to hunting, habitat loss and U.S. government-sponsored predator eradication programs intended to benefit the livestock industry.

In 2014 the Center secured more than 750,000 acres of federally protected critical habitat for U.S. jaguar recovery. Today’s new jaguar footage was captured well outside of that designated area. The Center has mapped millions of acres of U.S. habitat suitable for jaguars.

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