

a short memorandum about near-term realities

4.Sept.2012

Good news and bad news.

The bad news is that the risk of virtual annihilation of human civilization in 2036 due to a potential strike by the asteroid Apophis is something that should now be very, very low on people's priorities.

While I do not really want to diminish the long-term attention to the ASTRIC project,¹ because the risk has not diminished and will not until April 13, 2029 (which is only 7 yrs. beforehand, and not enough time for anyone and I do mean anyone to scramble a last-minute response), the fact is that the next several years are destined to bring far more definite problems for which there are no demonstrably committed, focused and sufficient countermeasures underway.

The following are not the outcome of my calculations alone. In fact, most of the confirmations come from a very large, diversified, and consistent number of others with far greater specialization in particular disciplines, as should be no surprise to any reader. These are not prophecies nor intuitions nor conjectures. The evidence is very solid and there is little room for argument. Specific dates cannot be predicted, but ranges of time, within certainly the span of five to ten years, are now realistic.

I am not going into great detail here, but only presenting the basics. They are – how to say? – impactful enough.

[1] Within the next several years (0.1? 1? 2? 5?) immense sections of Antarctic and Greenland ice caps will slide into the oceans. This is a near-inevitability – only the specific dates cannot be predicted. Can it be averted? Assuredly not. Therefore, humanity must prepare, expect, adapt, and react intelligently.

[2] Concurrent with these events will be the cessation of the Gulf Stream Conveyor which is already nearly at a standstill. The effects of this trans-oceanic event, in combination with the consequences of the massive sudden ice cap slides, melting, and the resulting tsunamis, sea level rises, and drastically diminished planetary albedo effect, will contribute to the triggering of a cascade-effect of a different sort, namely,

[3] The release of many methane clathrates – some immense bubbles releasing tens of millions of tons of methane at once, but most much smaller as individual releases - from deep suboceanic deposits. The drastic and sudden spike in global temperatures will cause further acceleration in the release of land-

¹ "Astric" with the additional keyword "space" leads to mention of MOSES/ASTRIC (in the "big picture" with respect to IIS and ECOADUNA) as #6 from the top on Google. No paid advertising, nor any "SEO" activity by me or anyone.

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surface methane from large bog regions such as in Siberia, Indonesia, (but also with somewhat lower outputs, in Africa and South America). Methane spikes in the atmosphere will further accelerate the climate warming and everything that goes in hand with that, including drastic changes to vegetation and animal life worldwide.

Other “ECP” (emergent critical processes, as you may recall from some papers) are of somewhat lower probability – the long-anticipated outbreak of an H1N1/H5N1 mutant influenza from pigs, seals or birds into the human population, for instance. And I do not even touch upon less certain events such as major seismic or volcanic activity, or the effects of socioeconomic breakdowns which will be certain to amplify the consequences, from lack of response-ability and breakdown of many critical infrastructure systems, for society to launch effective and defensive countermeasures against these calamitous ECP.

Well, so much for the bad news, but this does not mean the end of the world as we know it – so long as we do not simply sit around on the porch and wait for things to unravel before our eyes.

The good news can perhaps best be expressed this way, for starters: some people did survive the sinking of the Titanic, in spite of the abysmal mismanagement of emergency preparedness and response. That historical event is presented here as a metaphor for our present situation. Humanity and our planetary eco-society can come out of these next several years and the following decades in much better shape even if only a few are working hard at addressing the problem and albeit with many at a “late start getting out of the gate.”

The answer is not to be found in extraordinary massive programs that are simply and utterly unrealistic. Perhaps one could “by magic” immediately put a stop to all human burning of fossil fuels. Tomorrow, for instance. It would not make one bit of difference. Even if it had been so five or ten years ago. The human factor has been significant, but in an epiphenomenal sort of way. An accelerant, but not a principal cause. Humans are not so powerful in their effects upon the total environment as they might like to believe that they are.

However, we humans can do some very reasonable and feasible things that can make an immense difference for the survival of our civilization. We can address all of the ECP that loom on our horizon. We can do the best that we can. And doing the best does not imply that we must spend hundreds of billions of dollars and involve millions of people. The most significant results are attainable from a relatively small number of people working on a few simple projects, a few tools, a few “lifeboats” or “arks” if one will accommodate the metaphors.

Unlike the ark from the Biblical story of Noah and the Flood, this ark is not one single ship, nor is it even a fleet of ships in the literal sense, nor is it anything that have to do with floating or sailing on water per se. The Ark is a Network and that network is made of multiple, mutually-supportive, symbiotic tools that are in the hands of many people. What will make the greatest positive difference is in providing the

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greatest possible number of people with the best tools for survival and sustenance. There is no single tool, no singular technology, that can be the “magic wand”. The network of tools spans energy, food, water, shelter, health, and security. In essence, “EEHS” or “E2HS” as we have come to know it. Yes, all of the technologies and products that you see bundled together under the banner of “TetraDyn” and also “ECOADUNA” do comprise some of the tools that can and will make a difference, particularly those pertaining to New Energy and to “maximally modular” PODs with an emphasis upon their uses for shelter and personal/community infrastructure resources in a time soon coming when the mainstream utilities and infrastructures of power, water, transport and communication are dysfunctional for potentially months or years, not just days or weeks.

But if there is one class of tools that stands out, it is not in what we have been putting out “on the table” (so to speak) about TetraDyn products. Or rather, it has been mentioned, but only very lightly before, as a “background” matter. It relates to PODs, true enough, but particularly for small modular PODs that can be used for personalized and family shelters – individually but especially in combination, for larger structures, as effective “building blocks” that are themselves made of modular components.

Think “POD” = “brick” or “block” or “cell” and from a lot of bricks and blocks and cells, one builds houses, factories, power stations, and structures that help to sustain agriculture and water production.

These are literally “building blocks for a new adaptive society” and they can be very multi-functional because even the physical structures themselves can be made of many different types of replaceable, switchable materials. Simultaneously, and also depending upon specific implementations, by means of the ingenious use of what can best be termed “intelligent surfaces and structures”, these structures generate electrical energy, provide shelter, serve as local hubs for fault-tolerant regional communications, produce drinking water, act as the framework for gardens, and can be implemented for all types of climate and environment.

I am no longer talking about some “product” but an Industry. Coming onto the scene with the magnitude of force that in the 19th century was Rail, in the early 20th century Steel, in the mid-20th century the Automobile, and in the late 20th century the personal computer and then the mobile computing devices that have been the rage of the early 21st century.

Well, a Major Industry also bespeaks the need for some things that get short shrift these days especially in America – factories, big production plants, large numbers of workers, and everything that seems to have been relegated to the history books about an America of the past and very far removed from the America of the present.

Enter into the scene, in to the “equation” The Opportunity and The Resources.

Sparrows Point.

A unified labor force of hundreds of skilled workers, indeed upwards of 2,000.

A huge industrial complex of which almost everything can be put to some intelligent use.

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The right ingredients to be manufacturing many primary materials and many finished products, all in a Unified Plan, as a cohesive industrial complex involving several key industries and special interests.

This can be The Big SPARK that has been missing for a long-overdue American Renaissance.

One might even call it “SPARC” – the Sparrows Point American Renaissance Complex.

Here at SPARC we build and shape materials – steel, composites, nanofibre materials.

Here at SPARC we build modular, self-assembly PODs that serve innumerable functions including that of being the basic building block units for larger assemblies that provide virtually self-contained homes and communities.

Here at SPARC we build systems that generate power and clean the air and water in the process.

Here at SPARC we produce practical products for uses in homes, offices, schools, factories, stores, and in the span of many fields of economic activity but especially in agriculture, transportation, and shelter.

Here at SPARC we build and assemble devices that harness not one but multiple forms of energy from the sun, the wind, the sea, and even, so it may seem at first glance, “out of thin air.”

Here at SPARC we build things for use of EARTH and also for development, exploration and living in SPACE.

Here at SPARC we build the parts and components of what will be mankind’s future life in the Cosmos.

And to think that everyone thought it was just an old, rusting, gone-away-to-nothing steel mill near downtown Baltimore.

Remember that you received this one week before the 11th anniversary of 9-11. What I have just written about will make the sufferings and losses of 9-11 look like, well, about 0.001%² of what is coming if we do not take the initiative and move very fast and with no time to take a break. The Urgency is Now and it will not diminish.

² For every individual and every family who suffers a tragic and unnecessary loss of a loved one, there are no comparisons, no statistics, “no nuthin” to make up for it. But here I am simply talking about numbers. Around 3,200 deaths (not to mention all the injuries) on 9-11-2001. So multiply that by about 100,000. I get 320,000,000. To me that is an extremely conservative, low number.