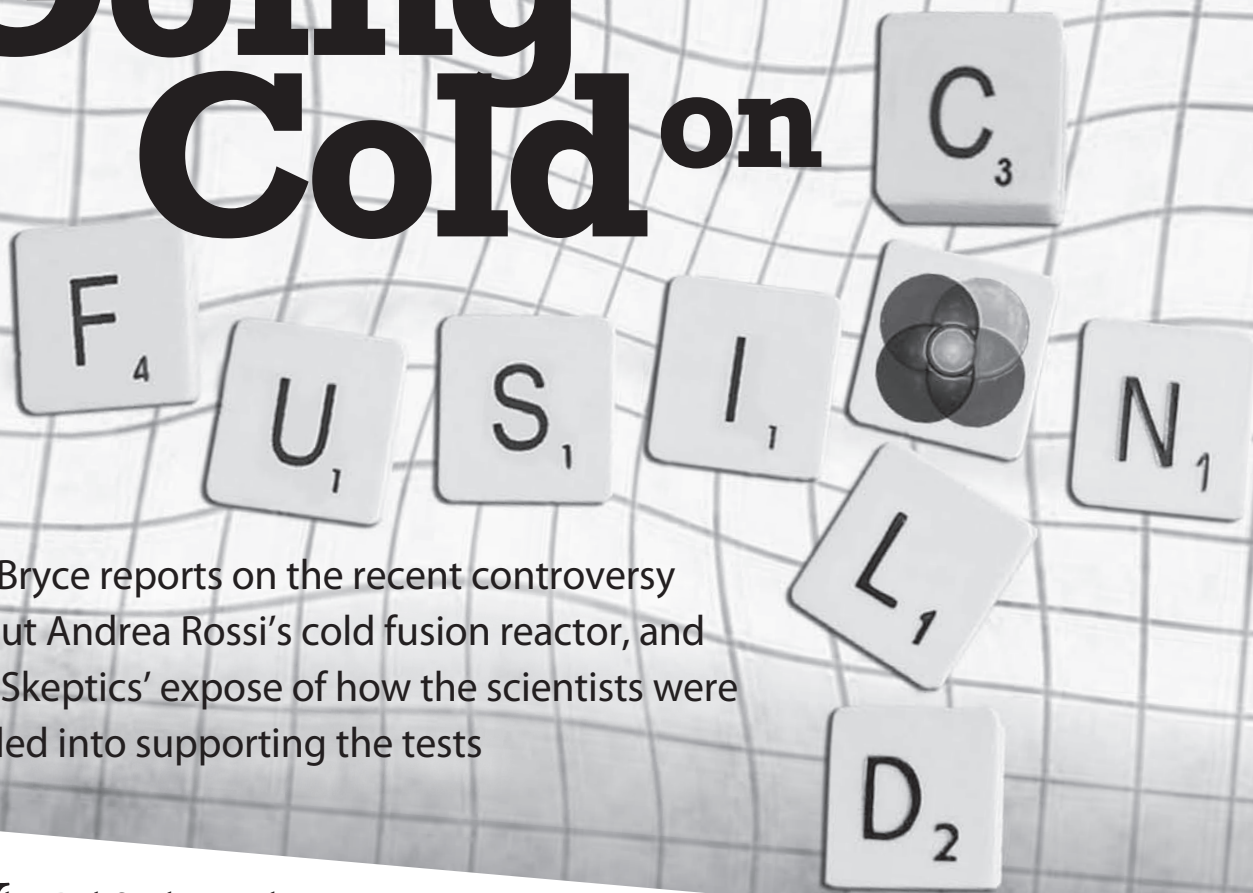


Going Cold on



Ian Bryce reports on the recent controversy about Andrea Rossi's cold fusion reactor, and the Skeptics' expose of how the scientists were misled into supporting the tests

When Dick Smith received an email in December last year with an offer that seemed too good to be true, Dick naturally thought it might be just that. Sol Millin from Byron Bay wrote "Cold fusion is now a commercial reality, and will replace dirty fossil fuel, coal, oil and gas and deadly uranium as the world's new clean green power. This is a highly lucrative trillion dollar market opportunity," he added, as if the solution to the world's energy and pollution problems was not enough.

Sol continued "Rossi's Cold Fusion is a commercial reality with 14 x 1Mw plants already sold in the USA and Europe to groups such as NASA and DARPA [the major Defence research agency] and commercial companies. The E-Cat in essence delivers power with no fuel input over a period of 20 years!

"We have been negotiating with [Italian entrepreneur] Andrea Rossi for many months, and the contracts have been agreed and I am scheduled to fly to Bologna Italy to sign the agreement and

pay the licence fee. We need the \$200K risk capital to enable this."

Sol had written to many Australian businessmen, asking for a \$200,000 investment. Dick, the only one to respond, immediately replied "If I invented such an incredible machine, I would make sure I would get a simple report from someone who is quite independent to say that it actually works. Can you send me a copy of this and I will send off the cheque?"

So it was with some surprise that Dick soon received a report by two Swedish nuclear physicists who witnessed a test on 29 March 2011. Sven Kullander is professor emeritus of high energy physics at Uppsala University, and a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and chairman of its Energy Committee. Hanno Essen is an associate professor of theoretical physics and a lecturer at the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology and, of great interest to the readers of

this magazine, former chairman of the Swedish Skeptics Society.

This team had analysed the measurements, and concluded "Any chemical process for producing 25 kWh [total energy over 6 hours, not power] from any fuel in a 50 cm³ container can be ruled out. The only alternative explanation is that there is some kind of a nuclear process that gives rise to the measured energy production."

Sol sent Dick the invoice he had received from Rossi giving details of a bank account in Florida where 100,000 Euros was to be transferred. Dick immediately sought the help of Australian Skeptics (which Dick was instrumental in founding in 1980).

Thus I began investigating, and uncovered a total of 15 scientists and engineers who had either witnessed a test or analysed the results, and gave some support for Rossi's device called E-CAT (energy catalyser) or for low



energy nuclear reactions (LENR) in general. Brian Josephson, Nobel Laureate said “This is capable of, by itself, completely changing geoeconomics, geo-politics, and solving climate and energy.” Three NASA scientists gave various words of praise including “It is my professional opinion that the production of excess energy has been demonstrated when the results of the last 20+ years of experimentation are evaluated.”

REACTOR TEST SETUP

What had the scientists seen? The photo shows a typical setup with the two Swedish scientists with Rossi. They are looking at a small ‘reactor’ where cold fusion is claimed to occur. It has several wires running from a blue box, which is plugged into a regular Italian 230V power outlet. The power from the mains is monitored by voltmeter and ammeter, and gives (on this occasion) 345 watts of input electrical power. The blue box has been inspected and contains several power phase controllers (the industrial equivalent of light dimmers) with control buttons – certainly no batteries or other source of power.

Water is pumped into the bottom of the reactor and, after 15 minutes warm up, the supposed nuclear reaction sets in and a steam-water mixture issues from the reactor via a hose to a drain. The temperatures are monitored – in this case 18C entering and 100C exiting.

Rossi calculated the power generated assuming only steam out, which gives 4.7 kilowatts, showing a CoP (coefficient of performance) of 14. Several commentators have questioned this claim, but I calculate that even if only 10 per cent of water is vaporised, the power is 1020 watts giving a gain of 3.0. This situation prevailed for over six hours, which rules out hidden batteries, phase change materials, chemical reactants etc.

A similar setup with some variations was used in at least seven tests up to April 2011, with most showing a significant power production (under the most pessimistic assumptions). This resulted in all those observers supporting excess energy which they

attributed to a hitherto unknown source such as cold fusion.

SOL MILLIN

I reported to Dick that I could not see any flaw, and set out to Mullumbimby to attend a meeting of prospective investors organised by Sol. A highlight was to be a Skype hookup to Rossi in Bologna, and I prepared some questions.

Sol turned out to be a retired IT consultant with a science degree. He drives a 1980’s Camira, painted hippy style with Love and Peace, and numerous flowers.

Sol is also a devotee (his word) of Indian mystic and proven scammer Sai Baba. In fact, Millin wears a “gold” ring with a huge 10 mm green “diamond”, which Baba supposedly materialised out of thin air and slipped on Sol’s finger – and Sol has never removed it. How does he know it’s a real diamond? Because Baba said so! Born David Millin, he asked Baba for a mystical name, and Baba said “Solihin”, which Millin kept.

Sol has an organisation called Byron New Energy Charitable Trust, in which he has peddled woo such as the Cosmic Water Cell which energised ordinary H₂O so your car can run on water (goodness knows why he then needs Rossi’s E-CAT). Sol firmly believes researchers can grow back missing limbs and transmute elements, but the technologies are being suppressed.

I asked Sol what would happen if he passed millions of investors’ dollars to Rossi and it eventually did not work? He said there is no need for concern, he will personally guarantee their investments. I thought, that would be sad, because he might have to sell his 1985 Camira to repay them.

Several people commented that if Rossi has cracked cold fusion and is seeking an Australian representative, why he is dealing with a retired hippy in New Age-land, instead of a major energy company.

MULLUMBIMBY MEETING

The demographic in Byron and Tweed shires is interesting. I realised that the Bryon area is perhaps the centre for woo in Australia, with the lowest vaccination rate. However there is plenty of retired money there, as evidenced by the literature in coffee shops – on one table the *Financial Review*, *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*, and on another leaflets for a ‘Mardi-Grass’ and an Earth Frequencies Festival. I asked what this latter meant, and the response was a surprised “Don’t you know of Tesla’s work in making the earth resonate like a bell?”

The meeting was advertised in the local papers, repeating the mantra of “This is your chance to take part in the golden age of humanity” and “We are the people we have been waiting for”.

It attracted about 70 people. Sol gave a long Powerpoint presentation which summarised the scientific support for E-CAT. It will change the world and “remember where you were when history was made”.

He was seeking the Australasian licence in Rossi’s business, and Rossi (who frequently denies seeking money) was demanding 100,000 Euros by the end of January.

Sol’s slides described a home-sized E-CAT like the one pictured, and an industrial-sized one in a shipping container which produces one megawatt, and listed prices for both. He strongly urged the audience to invest in BNE, and they would make squillions within a year.

The hook-up with Rossi did not eventuate due to a failure to coordinate times, so I could not ask my questions.

As I represented Sol’s main prospective

investor, he allowed me to make a presentation. I warned him what I planned to say, and he allowed me to go ahead.

I started off by describing Australian Skeptics and their history. I listed several recent investigations and

“ I could not see how Rossi’s E-CATs regularly produce excess power under the noses of skilled observers.”

Cold Fusion

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campaigns, including Power Balance, homeopathy, Lutece free energy, and our support for Ken Harvey's battle with Sensaslim.

When I got to the AVN and Meryl Dory, there were howls of complaint, and someone walked out (and later wrote an angry letter).

I asked the audience about their belief in the laws of physics. About 10 per cent thought the laws are correct, 10 per cent thought they are all wrong, and then several explained in the following terms: "Most of us think the laws are OK as far as they go, because we see working cell phones and aeroplanes. But they are incomplete – there is more to be discovered. That is how things like cold fusion might work."

I presented one technical analysis. Previous writers have criticised Rossi's setup for having both water and steam (phase change), thus confusing measurements. So in the March 29 test, I analysed the 15-minute warm-up period during which the input power was apparently 300 watts, before the water started boiling. Transient conditions are harder to analyse, so I had to estimate the amount of copper and water present in the device. Then, using their specific heat, with some assumptions, I estimated the power input necessary to explain the recorded temperature-time data. This shows several plateaus at 690 watts, 1700 watts, and 2600 watts. The power seems to jump suddenly to different levels, which I felt was more reminiscent of switch operation than the supposed nuclear reaction.

An even more puzzling feature of the simulated power output was a moment when the power in the operating reactor suddenly dropped, and 20 seconds later resumed at the higher 2600 W level, despite the reactor having cooled down – hardly consistent with a nuclear reaction being triggered by heat. All this was cause for concern regarding the validity of the LENR claims.



Left: Andrea Rossi (left) proudly displays his E-CAT fusion reactor to Swedish scientists Prof Sven Kullander (centre) and Assoc Prof Hanno Essen (right).

I described my three-legged stool test for claims of a scientific nature:

- Firstly, there needs to be a theory in which it is at least possible – but despite many claims of exotic new physics, none has explained how cold fusion could overcome the Coulomb Barrier.
- Secondly, there must be observations or measurements showing the phenomenon really occurs. With Rossi's E-CAT, there are too many signs that something is wrong experimentally, despite the many supportive scientists.
- Thirdly, the claimant must be credible – and Rossi has allegedly already sold energy devices which failed to work (thermoelectric cells), spent time in jail for environmental crimes and tax fraud (layer acquitted), and cited a degree in chemical engineering from a bogus university.

I told the audience that a new phenomenon becomes sound when all three of the above legs are solid. If one leg is broken, like a stool it falls down – and remains unproven until better evidence is obtained. In this E-CAT case, all three legs have severe problems. This makes it very unlikely that it is worth pursuing at all, and I would be recommending against investment.

Questions from the audience followed. They were divided between energy science and investment structures. Some were very

knowledgeable about bush technologies, while others asked for the latest on far-out energy schemes.

The latter included Brown's Gas (a magical mixture of hydrogen and oxygen), the Joe Cell (a collector and accumulator of orgone energy), Steven Horvath's hydrogen fusion car (claimed to run on water), and nascent hydrogen (a method of using atomic hydrogen to achieve extremely high temperatures).

The next morning I reported to Dick that although I still could not see how Rossi's E-CATs regularly produce excess power under the noses of skilled observers, there were too many bad signs for it to be real. We both reported to the waiting media, and got much press coverage

THE LENR COMMUNITY & ROSSI

In fact, "cold fusion" is an older term for the energy source claimed by Fleischman and Pons in 1998. Their experiment was never replicated, and yet they still have a band of dedicated followers. The technology which is now called "low energy nuclear reactions" (LENR), and which 'works' on a somewhat different principle to overcome the repulsive Coulomb barrier between two positively-charged nuclei which normally prevents fusion from occurring except in the presence of very high temperatures.

There is a plethora of websites and blogs devoted to discussing LENR, some more breathlessly than others.



COLD FUSION – HOW IT ‘WORKS’

Steve Novella describes the technical issues around claims of cold fusion low energy nuclear reactions.

Fusion occurs when like-charged atomic particles – like protons, or atoms of protons and neutrons – are forced together under great temperature and pressure so that they fuse together to make a larger atom. The electromagnetic repulsion of the like charges has to be overcome and the particles brought close enough together so that the nuclear forces will take over and fuse them together. For elements lighter than iron, fusion results in an excess of energy, and for elements heavier than iron energy has to be put into the system for fusion to occur.

Nuclear fusion is what powers the sun – right now, mostly hydrogen being fused into helium. Fusion bombs work by using a fission bomb to force a pellet of nuclear material together with sufficient force to cause fusion.

The basic concept is that some form of confinement is needed to force the protons together. Stars use gravitational confinement – their immense gravity pushes the hydrogen together until it fuses, and hold it together despite the outward explosive force of the energy created by fusion. Fusion bombs use inertial confinement created by the fission explosion. But there can also be magnetic confinement where strong magnetic fields force the charged particles together.

The limiting factor in all of these scenarios is that extreme force must be used to force fusion to happen. This is great for creating a bomb, but not for a sustained controllable reaction where the energy can be harnessed. Engineers are working on creating hot-fusion for energy, but the engineering challenges are extreme.

COLD FUSION

Thus the allure of cold fusion. If we could somehow cajole hydrogen atoms, or some other light element, to fuse together without the extreme activation energy needed for known methods of confinement, we could theoretically have a low energy nuclear reaction – LENR or cold fusion. This would be easier to control and harness. Nuclear reactions result in vast amounts of released energy, so such a source could be abundant. The process would not generate any greenhouse gases or radioactive waste. Hydrogen as a fuel source could be harvested from water.

The only problem is that so far there is no evidence that anyone has been able to do it. There have been many claims, even beyond the high profile claims of Pons and Fleischmann in the 1980s, but they all suffer from the same problem – lack of reproducibility.

PROBLEMS

Cold fusion claims tend to take the form of Pons and Fleischmann’s – a laboratory setup that seems to produce

a bit of excess energy, often in the form of heat. The claim for nuclear fusion is mainly based upon an argument from ignorance – there is a bit of unexplained energy in the experiment, therefore that energy is coming from nuclear fusion. This is the same logic used to argue that an unidentified light in the sky is a flying saucer, or an unexplained blob of light on a photo is a ghost.

There are two problems with this line of evidence. The first is that it is easy to miss a subtle source of energy. Basing a claim on the inability to explain a tiny bit of energy is inherently weak – even the tiniest error or oversight could explain the results, and tiny errors and oversights are common. Only through rigorous replication designed to eliminate, as much as possible, any such errors or

oversights would a cold fusion claim be compelling, and so far no such claims have survived attempts at replication.

The second problem is the absence of positive evidence for fusion specifically as the source of the unexplained energy. If hydrogen is being fused into helium, then helium should be detected. This process also produces neutrons, tritium, and gamma rays. So far no experiment claiming excess heat from cold fusion has been able to document the simultaneous presence of helium, neutrons, tritium and gamma rays in sufficient quantities

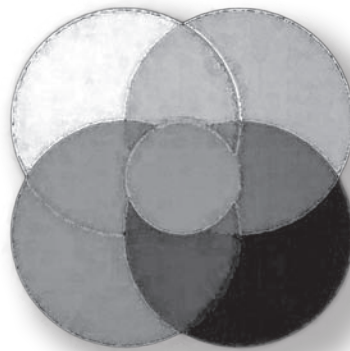
to what is predicted should occur if fusion is the cause of the excess heat. Some researchers have claimed finding these things in excess of background levels, but just barely, and still orders of magnitude less than predicted. So again, slight experimental error is a better explanation.

CONCLUSION

As far as I can tell, we are nowhere near achieving cold fusion, which may not even be possible. Justifications for cold fusion at present are purely speculative. I have no problem with companies or individuals dedicating their time and resources to researching cold fusion. I think it is prudent to invest a small amount in research into unlikely claims that are at least possible and would have a huge payoff.

But we do need to be cautious. If the basic science does not point the way to a plausible solution, then diverting funds from basic science to translational problem-solving research is likely to be counterproductive. With regard to cold fusion/LENR, it seems to me (as an outside lurker and not a nuclear physicist) that the basic science is not here, and no one knows if it ever will be. ■

Dr Steve Novella is an academic clinical neurologist at Yale University School of Medicine. He is the president and co-founder of the New England Skeptical Society, and host and producer of The Skeptics’ Guide to the Universe podcast. This article is adapted from his Neurologica blog - <http://theness.com/neurologicablog/index.php/cold-fusion-after-20-years>.



Cold Fusion

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You can search for relevant sites using “Rossi”, “Bryce” or “Dick Smith” to find relevant threads. They range from the serious – *oilprice.com* – to the “There’s nothing too far out” *Above Top Secret*.

The many followers of LENR in general are divided into those who support Rossi, such as *Mats Lewan’s Ny Teknik Swedish technology magazine*, and those who don’t believe in Rossi, such as Steven Krivit’s *New Energy Times*.

There are many insinuations of conspiracies involving competitors, governments, vested interests and other media people and bloggers. One regular correspondent even keeps raising UFOs as an ancillary concern, as if the two topics are linked, much to the chagrin of others.

Rossi graduated cum laude in Philosophy of Science and Engineering from the University of Milan in 1973. His thesis was on the philosophy of Albert Einstein’s Theory of Relativity.

He has been a vigorous entrepreneur, having invented a process to convert organic waste into oil for which, in 1978, he founded a company named Petrodragon and built many such reactors.

Rossi also invented a thermoelectric generator intended to turn waste heat into electricity, but reports say the units delivered failed to work. Thus there are conflicting reports of his background.

EUREKA!

Dick insisted there must be a trick involved in the E-CAT demonstrations, so I spent some time going over all the reports. I have learnt from the Skeptics’ contacts among magicians that scientists are easy to fool, and can overlook what is under their noses.

The 29 March test could be separated into two phases – transient (warm-

up) and steady state. The warm-up phase has been described above, with powers in the range 690-2600 W being required to account for the temperature rate of increase.

For the steady-state phase, there were many videos showing steam issuing from the outlet hose. Analysis already published on the internet often concluded that the steam quality was not measured properly, and so “there are no valid measurements”.

I looked more closely at the observations, and tried to find upper and lower limits – a minimum of 1023 W being produced in steady state for 6 hours, compared to the a maximum of 345 W input shown on power metering. This indicates a CoP (coefficient of performance or power gain) of at least 3, thus supporting Rossi’s claims. Where could the extra power be coming from, if not cold fusion?

Then at 3:53am on January 19, being unable to sleep, the earth wire technique came to me in a Eureka moment.

I got up and checked it quickly against the observations and

data – it fitted. The new hypothesis also seemed to explain the observed power production in all seven tests of the 10 and 3 KW machines (up to April). (After that, Rossi’s techniques changed, and in the 27 KW machines, a misplaced thermocouple explains the energy gain.)

To understand the hypothesis, it is necessary to describe the layout. One difficulty in investigating the claims has been the lack of equipment setup diagrams from Rossi, which would be normal practice for any sound demonstration. Often the observers at each demonstration have drawn up their own understanding of the layout.

Scientists and journalists observing the demonstrations were shown inside a blue box. This is the control box for the input power, and the observers noted that there were many wires between it and the reactor, making it impractical

for observers to measure the power directly to the reactor (at least until June).

Instead, they were forced to measure it in the power lead to the blue box.

The blue box contained several phase-operated power controllers, which are the industrial equivalent of the common light dimmer. Perhaps they wondered why such a basic ‘reactor’ warranted any such devices, let alone twelve, most of them unconnected. They also did not ask why the internal wiring was such a rat’s nest, when it should have been simple and easy to trace out.

Some of the observers saw standard measuring instrumentation, such as an ammeter, for measuring the current from the electricity mains. A photo shows that the cable from the power plug has the three coloured wires which are standard colours around the world, and every engineer and electrician will recognise. The brown wire is active, at 230 volts, and carries the current to the load. The blue wire is neutral, at zero volts, and carries the return of the load current. The green and yellow striped wire is the protective earth, and connects to the metal enclosure (if any) of the load device.

The earth wire normally carries no current. However, should there be an insulation breakdown in the appliance, the earth wire returns the fault current to the wall outlet, and hence the building’s earth stake (usually blowing the fuse or tripping the circuit breaker), thereby protecting humans using the appliance from electric shock.

In the illustrations and videos of several tests, the clamp of an ammeter is shown looped around the brown wire, thus measuring the current in the active. On 29 March this current was reported to be 1.5 amps. When multiplied by the voltage between active and neutral, 230 V, this yields the power travelling from the wall outlet to the load (if it is a simple resistive load) as 345 watts. The power reaching the E-CAT must be slightly less due to control and instrumentation.

Thus the observing scientists interpreted what they saw according to the layout in Figure 1.

“ They did not ask why the internal wiring was such a rat’s nest, when it should have been simple and easy to trace out.”



THE EARTH WIRE HYPOTHESIS

The evidence suggests to me that Rossi had arranged to sneak extra electrical power into the E-CAT, which the observers would not measure. The earth wire is suitable for this task if, say, the connections were rearranged slightly both in the power plug (or perhaps wall outlet), and also inside the blue box. Refer to Figure 2.

In this hypothesis, 230 volts is applied to the green and yellow earth and neutral (blue) wires all in their proper configuration. Inside the blue box, several power controllers (call them "B") are reconnected to this wire, and convey unmeasured power to the reactor.

Such wires will carry about 13 amps continuously without any visible signs of heat, and thus provide up to 2900 watts of extra power. This is ample to explain the observed boiling of water and generation of steam in the demonstrations.

The clamp ammeter is still showing the 1.4 amps in the brown wire, which powers the "A" controllers. It does not register the 12 Amps flowing in the green wire next to it, because it is not threaded through the clamp. Similarly, the 13 amps returning through the neutral wire is not detected.

Possibly the hot wiring is done inside the wall outlet instead of the plug. The result would be the same.

But does this theory explain the facts?

In my investigations, I firstly examined all seven published tests of Rossi's E-CAT from December 2010 through April 2011, which include models known as the 10 KW, the 3 KW, and the 3 KW truncated*. Such a misconnection could funnel in up to 3000 watts, rather than the 300 – 800 watts shown on the meters. Since the output power estimated in these

experiments ranges from 2300 to 2900 watts (after careful corrections and some estimation), all the excess power previously attributed to cold fusion is accounted for.

In the 14 June test, the input power was approximately 800 W, and the output may have been 800 – 3000 W, so energy gain was not proven. In all the tests after July of E-CATs known as the 27 KW and the Megawatt models, there was no valid output power measurement due to poorly placed thermometers and other errors, and hence no proven extra power.

Could there be other explanations? The site <http://lenr/qumba.com> by Alan Fletcher, and other sites, go into infinite detail to examine and disprove

theories including: dual water circuits; embedded phase change materials; the use of hydrogen peroxide instead of water; and microwave power beamed from the next room! I think Ockham's Razor is needed.

Thus, I believe that all results of E-CAT tests are accounted for without involving LENR, and in most cases the earth wire hypothesis is by far the simplest. Physicist Hano Essen agrees that it is possible, given what he observed on 29 March.

What predictions does this hypothesis make? Firstly that all demonstrated output powers (run from a power point) should be less than 3000 W – this seems to be true.

It explains the power 'plateau' seen

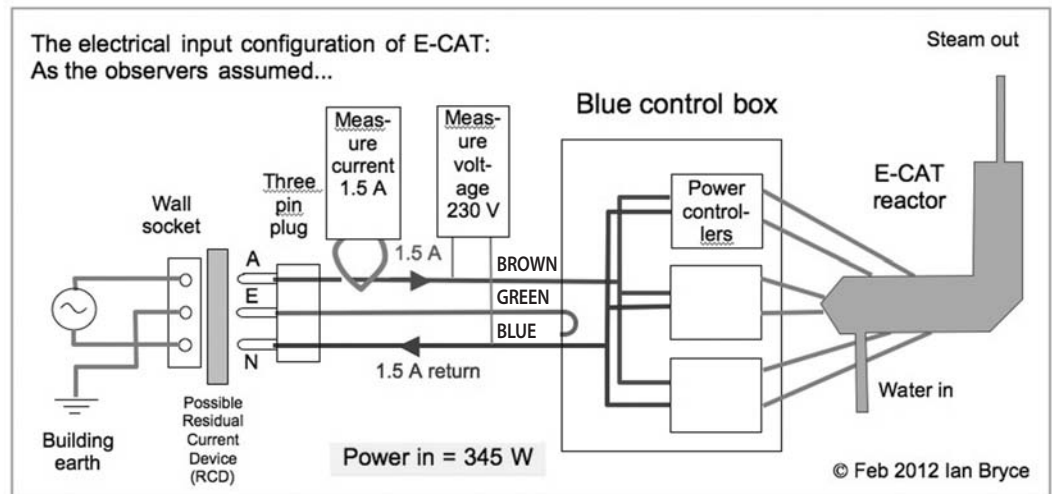


Fig 1: E-CAT wiring as the observers assumed - active (brown), earth (green/yellow) and neutral (blue) wires all in their proper configuration.

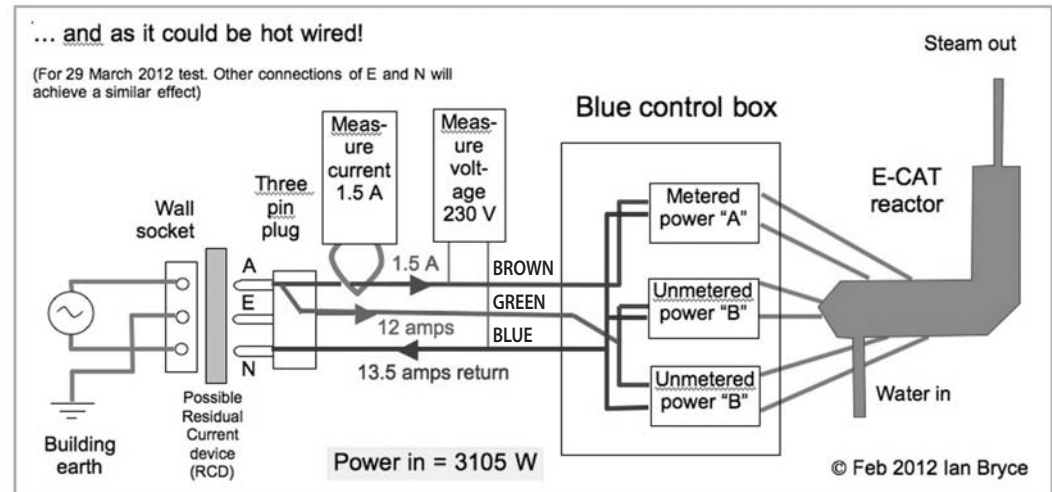


Fig 2: E-CAT wiring as it might very well have been - the 'hot wired' version with active (brown) and earth (green/yellow) wires interacting.

Cold Fusion

Continued...

on my simulation of 29 March.

It explains also the 20 second dip in output power – perhaps someone approached the meters and Rossi briefly turned off the B controllers (he tends to sit by the blue box).

We would expect Rossi to resist attempts to have the power plug disconnected. We see this in the 29 March test where a second resistor was required “to initialise the burning and also to act as a safety if the heat evolution should get out of control”. In September there is a ‘signalling device’, and on 6 October test, a ‘frequency producer’ which cannot be turned off. All of these need to be kept running, so the power plug remains connected. Finally, for the test of the megawatt machine of November, a large diesel generator was kept running the whole time.

THE REACTION

While I was developing my alternative theory, Sol Millin was becoming increasingly impatient with Dick Smith.

He wrote to Dick, threatening him with: “If Byron New Energy Charitable Trust do not obtain the exclusive licence for E-CAT Technology in Australasia from Leonardo Corporation [Rossi’s company], we intend suing you for damages of \$100,000,000 (one hundred million dollars).

“The only impediment to us obtaining this licence right now is your default of payment of the \$200,000 (two hundred thousand dollars) that you owe us by close of business Tuesday 17 January 2012 (tomorrow).

“As an alternative, you may wish to complete your obligation and welcome in the New Energy Age of clean green inexpensive renewable Cold Fusion to Australasia and the World.”

Needless to say, there was no obligation on Dick’s part to hand over \$200,000. He had never indicated he would give the money to Millin without some independent assessment, which I gave him, and which was

negative. Threatening to sue for \$100 million was a tad excessive, and neither Dick nor Australian Skeptics have heard any more about that.

In late January, my hypothesis was published through a generally issued press release, as well as through direct correspondence with many of the players and bloggers. There was instantly a rush to defend Rossi and the E-CAT by almost all of the bloggers. The test observers themselves, on the other hand, largely remained silent; those I contacted were unable to provide any evidence to the contrary.

We received feedback from many people overseas who listened to a Skeptic Zone podcast that I did, as well as from a separate Australian would-be investor. We also received notification of many other energy scams around the world.

There were queries raised as to Dick’s earnestness (even, by some, his very existence) and many references to “pseudoskeptics”, by which the writers meant those who reach a negative conclusion based on third party reports.

THE \$1 MILLION OFFER

Thus armed with added confidence, Dick then upped the ante by offering Rossi \$1 million, with no strings attached, if he could repeat the test in which Kullander and Essen took part.

He said: “I do not want to know how the unit operates, nor to have a share in the profits from any sales. My satisfaction will come from knowing that if the unit is successful, some of the world’s greatest problems – especially in relation to climate change – will be solved.”

He only wanted the two Swedish scientists (if available) and a third party to ensure measurements and the set-up were correct, to act as his representatives.

Support for this move came in from an unexpected corner. Sol Millin told Dick “Good on you. It looks to me that you have already emailed this offer to dear Andrea? Is this the fact? As you see, I have cc’d this email to dear Andrea. Let’s hope dear Andrea Rossi takes you up and all is made crystal clear.”

Certainly Rossi’s views were made

crystal clear.

Within less than 24 hours, he had rejected it, describing the offer as “clownery”.

“If this guy wants to test a 1 MW plant and has 1 million to spend he can buy a 1 MW plant, with a regular contract, that gives him all the necessary guarantees and to us the logic financial guarantees. Our plants are tested by Our Customers and the Consultants they choose. I have not time at all for this clownery. Besides: when Our E-Cats will be in the market, this ‘millionaire’ will have the chance to buy for few hundred dollars an E-Cat and test it as he wants, so why waste money? I do not need his money.”

And there it stands. Claim and counter claim, unsupported by any evidence from Rossi.

He says there will be working models of E-CAT for sale by the end of this year. He is apparently moving his operations to Miami.

And what of Sol Millin? The scuttlebutt goes that the licence for the distributorship has gone to someone else. The saga continues.

Are there any winners? As well as truth, justice and the Skeptics way, there are the people who would have been lining up to invest their savings into a project that was not yet proven to be genuine. Not to mention the many researchers into real improvements into energy production and utilisation, who will have more investment funds available. ■

**A list of the previous tests on Rossi’s E-CAT - and other background material to this article - can be found at <http://www.skeptics.com.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Rossi-ECAT-press-release-Technical-31.pdf>.*

About the author:

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