Paul Story on Steorn

Steorn – A Detailed Summary

The following summary has been compiled by Paul Story and represents an informed, independent view of the coming revolution. It is unashamed in its optimism and reflects his belief that Steorn is telling the truth. A current member of the Steorn Private Developers' Club, he does not speak for, or answer to, the company. You can find more information from his blog at: http://www.paulstory.com

Executive Briefing

First, the broad claim (in my words):

Steorn has a machine that is able to drive a load continuously without external power and with no apparent degradation of its constituent parts. Within normal limits of mechanical reliability, the machine will run for the useful life of the product it powers, without any need for fuel. This means that from the day you buy a phone or a laptop you will never have to plug it in. From the day you sit in your new car to the day you scrap it, you will never have to fill it with fuel.

In particular:

- The machine outputs mechanical energy.
- It is built from readily available materials and works using a particular and very specific effect of magnetism.
- At present, the motion is driven by permanent magnets.
- It is a simple matter to attach the output to a generator to produce electricity.
- It is likely that, at some point in the future, where the desired output is electrical, the generator coils will be incorporated into the machine itself.
- They have made a small range of prototypes to check scalability.
- From a device the size of your fingernail to one that could power a car, the technology has been shown to be linearly scalable.
- The first-generation implementation has an energy density of around 0.5 Watts/cc
- It is likely that this energy density will rise in subsequent generations of the

technology.

- Steorn intends to target the mobile market as it is uniquely able to bring products to mass market quickly.
- The cost of manufacturing a module that fits in your laptop or phone will be commensurate with the cost of a modern battery pack you use now. It will not, however, need to be recharged.
- While the company makes money for its shareholders in the developed world, it has structured its business model to maximise the benefits to the planet and its people as a whole.
- After placing an advert in The Economist in August last year, they attracted thousands of applications to test their claims.
- They selected 22 scientists from several of the world's leading academic/scientific institutions to form ‘The Jury’
- The company is privately funded and has a healthy balance. They do not need and will not accept offers of investment. Neither will they sell anything until the jury report their findings.
- Steorn does not manufacture products, it merely licences its intellectual property.
- It has a manufacturing partner that will make products to Steorn’s specifications. This partner will make a significant number of demonstration machines that it intends to sell over the net after the jury validates their claims. This machine is simply another form of validation – one that thousands of people around the world will have sitting on their desks proving to us all that their claims are backed up by more than words.
- A fully functioning public demo will be held in London in July.

Brief Summary

The revolution started in Ireland.

In August 2006, Steorn, a small Dublin company, placed a one-page advert in The Economist. In effect, it said:

We have done the impossible. Prove us wrong.

That impossible thing was the production of free energy using a device that sounded very much like a perpetual motion machine. If true, it would change the world and shake physics to its core. Frustrated at being ignored by the scientific establishment, Steorn admits that the advert was a publicity stunt designed to anger scientists and to make them want to prove them wrong.

It worked. Thousands applied to test the technology and by December that year, they had 22 who were qualified and motivated to rip the claim apart. They are 'the jury'. Driven entirely by its members, they would determine the how, where, with-whom, with-what, and how-long of the process. No matter the results, they are bound by contract to report to the public on a date yet to be determined – the so-called, Validation Day. Sean McCarthy, Steorn's CEO, says that he has no doubt whatsoever what they will find.

Although there are parallels with both recent and historical claims that turned out to be bogus or mistaken, Steorn's behaviour does not follow the pattern of scam artists gone by. Indeed, it is difficult to come up with a reasonable framework that would account for their actions if one were to start from the common sense position that they are lying or mistaken. Most observers now doubt any theory that has Steorn profiting from an illegal misrepresentation of their claims.

For a start, the company is privately funded and needs no more money to complete the process to its conclusion. It does not seek and will not accept offers of investment until after validation. It will sell nothing and will not enter into commercial agreements regarding future licensing deals. It has vowed that, once commercial operations begin, licensing will be inclusive – the company will not be bought out by a large corporation but will licence its technology to small and large concerns on an equal-access basis. Targeting a narrow market, McCarthy states that they have no wish to profit from those who cannot afford to pay for licences. To that end, the business model is designed to help the world benefit from their technology without raping it as they do so. Running alongside the profitable arm of selling licences to, for instance, the mobile technology sector, will be an ethos, mechanism and structure designed to spread the reality of free energy around the world with as few barriers to entry as possible. Individuals and groups working on humanitarian projects will pay Steorn nothing and a training database will be on-line ready to teach anyone with an interest exactly how to make it happen. A private developers' club (SPDC), recruited

from over 200 members of the global community, is working with Steorn to ensure that this database is ready and that, when the doors open, a small army of trained ‘seeds’ will help propagate the benefits to as many people in as short a time as possible. As I write this, a pilot project is under way somewhere in Africa to pump water to needy people. This is a symbol, in my opinion, of Steorn’s philosophy and a tiny example of the change that is set to cascade throughout the planet - all this as Steorn’s investors profit by selling their technology to a developed world desperate to free themselves from the tyranny of burning oil.

The Detail

It all started when…

Steorn was in the anti-fraud technology business. A recognized expert, the company's CEO, Sean McCarthy, has provided forensic and expert witness services to British, Irish and international law enforcement agencies.

Working on an anti-fraud system for cash-machines, Steorn engineers discovered an anomaly in their results as they tried to improve the output from a micro windmill power unit. Curious and frustrated, they were concerned that their sensitive instruments were faulty. Months later, after trying everything they could to sort the problem, they convinced themselves that the anomaly was real. From that point, their focus, their business, and their lives changed forever.

With the luck of the Irish, and in an extreme example of serendipity, Steorn engineers had tripped over an effect that would allow them to design a magnetic motor that needed no fuel – a feat that was supposed to be impossible.

Almost three years later, after working quietly on understanding and maximizing the effect, the company had a range of designs and a number of patent applications in the bag. They'd also had a reality check. As experienced engineers, they understood that their claim would be met with scepticism. They themselves did not believe what they were seeing for the first few months. Why should anyone else? They did, however, expect to be taken seriously.

Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. What better way to prove themselves than to take their findings to the scientific establishment? Once scientists saw what was happening, they would be compelled to back Steorn and the road would be cleared for the company to launch their technology to the world. They expected scepticism but they did not expect ridicule. Most academic institutions they contacted refused to look at their device, pouring scorn on their assertion that they had broken through a barrier that was defined by a number of well known 'laws' and hundreds of years of evidence. Those who did look agreed that there was a case to answer but, according to Steorn, would not allow the company to use their names in public. Frustrated and angry, Steorn looked for another route.

Heresy

If scientists would not allow them over the threshold, Steorn had an idea to make them to come to Dublin instead. In August last year, they placed a one page advert (at an estimated cost of $150,000) in the international magazine, The Economist. They issued a challenge to the scientific community, stating their claims and offering them the opportunity to prove them wrong. The resulting media attention did the job and soon a gathering storm was breaking over the company's website and applications to bloody

their noses came flooding through the net from around the globe. An initial 5,000 were reduced to 1,000 suitably qualified applicants. By December 2006, the process was completed and 22 scientists from a number of prestigious institutions formed a jury to test the truth of Steorn's claims.

The rules were simple. Steorn would leave the testing up to the members of the jury with the proviso that they publish their results at the end of the process and that the process itself be split into three distinct phases. These are paraphrased as follows:

- To determine that the machine runs continuously without apparent fuel.
- That there is no degradation of its constituent parts over time.
- Perform a full thermodynamic analysis.

Steorn has the option to report each phase as it is completed to avoid any one part taking so long that the technology is never launched. This is particularly important as the third phase may take a number of years and is unnecessary to validate a practical working device - as long as the other two points are proven true.

In practice this means that Steorn may be required to build and ship 22 machines or give the plans to 22 people and pay for the construction. They will probably have to fund independent testing from third parties and respond to numerous requests from members of the jury over an extended period of time. While it is estimated that the report will be ready by the end of 2007 or the beginning of 2008, Steorn is unable to announce a specific date, they say, because it is the jury that will decide when it is ready and no one else.

The Technology

Branded as the Orbo, the raw output of the machine is mechanical. According to Steorn, a quoted power density of 0.5W/cc includes the coils and other elements needed to convert the mechanical output to electricity. Think of a half Watt in the approximate size of a sugar cube. If we relate this to quantities that we are used to dealing with, we might think of a 60W bulb or a 1KW electric fire. At first this might not seem very impressive. A 60W bulb would need around 120 'sugar cubes' to power it. Remember though that this is a volume relationship, so a 5x5x5 stack would get us there. With LED and other energy-saving devices, we can get good quality lighting at under 10 Watts - a little over 2X2X2 cubes.

At the other end of the scale, imagine something the size of a small dining table (1 cubic metre). This volume would hold a million cubes - a lot of sweetener or a lot of energy depending on how good you are at analogies.

That's a half megawatt of power. If we were talking about a bank of batteries it would pack a powerful punch, but as a free energy device that keeps going and going and going, we start to get a picture of what all the fuss is about.

Knowing that this is the starting point for the coming revolution and recognising that it is likely to get even better in the near future, it's likely that this thing is going to blow our socks off.

The Fuel

The point of the Orbo is that it can drive a load without fuel and it's reasonable to wonder how Steorn can claim such a thing if it has not run one for years at a time. How can they be so sure that the permanent magnets do not run down after a period of time?

Posting to the Steorn forum, Sean McCarthy said that if a permanent magnet, initially charged to 80% of its capacity, was used in the device, then after some time in operation it would have increased its strength to 100%.

This is an astonishing statement. Now we can understand their confidence. While nothing will beat a long field trial to prove the point, the knowledge that the magnetisation is topped up as it runs, is the key to the magic that is about to change our world. Where is the energy coming from? Why does a permanent magnet do that? These are questions that will excite scientists working on the subject in the coming years.

To be continued…

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