

MEET MR. VLAD

By Tim Ventura & Vlad at ZPEnergy.Com, March 23rd, 2006

Meet Mr. Vlad – the self-confessed master, slave, and moderator of ZPEnergy.Com. It's not easy running one of the hottest breakthrough-energy forums online, but it certainly can be rewarding. ZPEnergy brings together scientists, engineers, and innovators from different walks of life to meet and collaborate on emerging-energy research, and does it with an open-optimism representative of the limitless possibilities of the 21st century...

AAG: I'd like to start with a basic overview of the ZPEnergy online forum -- when people ask you about the site, how do you describe it?

Vlad: As we wrote on the very top of our main page:

"This is a NEWS PORTAL dedicated to experimental research on REVOLUTIONARY ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES. We propose to you to use this site as THE concentrator of choice for valuable news on the fascinating but still controversial subject of over-unity (OU) fuel-less energetics (devices tapping the Zero Point Energy (ZPE)/ Vacuum/ Cosmic/ Ambient energy fields) and related."

People should click on the "Read more..." link since there is essential info on what this site is all about in there, as well as in our "Mission Statement" (click the top left "screaming guy").

AAG: Let's talk about the inspiration for creating the ZPEnergy website. What led you to build the site, and what were some of the early concepts that you considered in terms of structuring & presenting the content?

Vlad: I became aware of the FE/OU movement in the late nineties after reading Jeane Manning's book "The Coming Energy Revolution – the search for free energy". Having a "classic" engineering background but being open-minded and inquisitive by nature, I was intrigued by the subject and decided to investigate it further. What happened is probably no surprise to you Tim, since many "knowledge hungry" people like us experienced the same sudden "loss of life" (personal;-) with the advent of the Internet. For a year or so I spent most of my spare time on line, reading all of the sites dealing with "unconventional alternative energy" and subscribing to many lists/groups where this topic was discussed as well. When I was not on the Net, I was trying to catch up with the printed publications (such as Infinite Energy Magazine, Journal of New Energy, ExtraOrdinary Technology, etc.).

I quickly realized the huge benefits of a site where many people with the same "special" interest could "collect" in one place interesting/relevant news/articles on that specific topic (from wherever they would find it) so helping each other stay informed and saving a lot of time otherwise necessary to find that news on your own. As I explained in our intro text, this is much simpler and efficient than to scan everyday through numerous sites, bulletin boards, discussion groups, etc., and search through pages of mostly irrelevant (for the general public) information, to find one that is worthwhile remembering and reporting. So, the idea of a thematic (Zero Point Energy - ZPE), moderated "new energy news portal", free (without annoying pop-up adds) and easily accessible by the public that would be "built" by its users, started to obsess me. It would still allow people to comment on the main story (have a "forum" format) but it would mostly behave like a "revolving info-index" pointing people to the exact location of a particular interesting information.

By the end of the Y2K, since the world was still "alive & kicking", I was confident the third millennium would indeed bring the new energy revolution, as predicted by many in the FE/OU movement. At that time I strongly

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believed that there were electromagnetic devices out there, ingeniously able to tap into the energy of the fabric of space-time continuum (vacuum fluctuations, ZPE, space energy or whatever you want to call it). This type of devices, for me, were the “ultimate energy machine” that would set all humans “free”, save this beautiful planet and also, finally, make us real space explorers, as I am convinced we are destined to be. Anything else in energy research would pale in comparison to this, to the point of becoming irrelevant. I believed (still do) that significant efforts must be coordinated by legitimate techno-scientific organizations to bring these technologies to the market ASAP. The question was: can I do something to help?

This FE/OU field was dispersed and poorly organized to practically accomplish something (i.e. validate and then bring a lab “experimental” device all the way to the market). A central place where the inventors could get together with scientists, potential investors, legal/patent people, interested manufacturers, distributors and the customers/public alike, such that the whole process would be covered, seemed like a good idea. Providing expert and public testimonials about the testing of a particular device and its functioning was also important, in my opinion. This is how and why the basic idea of ZPEnergy.com original “topics” structure was borne.

I wrote the preamble for the main page and the respective topic sections (later turned into the current “mission statement”) and started bugging my son Calin to help me build the site. At that time he was in high school but ... kinda geek already :-). A year or so before, he started his RawNet web design business, and was already experienced, running a few nanotechnology news portals he designed and built with his “www partners” from all over the world (that is the beauty of the Internet: it made the “virtual corporation” a reality). Today he is studying physics at the university and continues to be our Webmaster.

Anyway, the original ZOPE based site was launched in April 2001 with only the main news page with articles and links assigned to the respective topics, a “Hot links” section and a Forum (an un-moderated discussion list where many posts that are out of scope for the main page can still go in). The first two years, the “growing years” (to Jan 2003 when we had the major upgrade to the PHP- Nuke platform), were tough ... but you know, as somebody wise said, "experience is what you get, when you didn't get what you wanted."

AAG: I'd like to ask about traffic: do you track visitor traffic volumes, and have recent problems with the price of gas & oil helped to expand your audience as people seek alternatives?

Vlad: Because ZPEnergy.com is not a commercial site, my interest was more in the quality of traffic (where the visitors are coming from) and not that much in the quantity (number of visitors). Of course, for educational purpose we target the general public as well, and we want as many people as possible to learn about the ZP/Vacuum Energy. But, realistically speaking, because the site is “specialized” on a subject that is not easily understood by the average visitor, we expected that soon the traffic would reach a “plateau” which would reflect approximately the number of people “in the know” at that time. My hope was to see the “plateau” start climbing again, as the information about this “fantastic” potential energy source (ZPE) was spreading.

The monthly traffic on ZPEnergy.com grew quickly to ~ 10,000 and then steadily to 30,000 “unique visitors” (uv) per month, in the first 3 years. Since then, it “seasonally” varies between 30,000 and 60,000 uv/mo. I suspect that there is a correlation between the recent trends in the oil & gas prices, the increased awareness and concern about global warming, etc., and the site traffic numbers. But, we have to admit that for many, ZPE is still a fringe topic, and certainly not a real, practical and immediate solution to the energy and environmental crisis we humans are currently facing.

Many sites report the number of “hits” per month (or year), since it is much bigger and impressive (ours is way over one million hits/mo these days). But this is totally misleading for the general public who usually assumes this is equal to the number of people who visited the site in the respective period of time. For those who understand what the “usage statistics” generated by an application like the Webalizer (or the Awstats etc.) represent, they know that the number of unique individual users (real people) visiting a particular site is impossible to determine using just the server logs and the HTTP protocol. However, the “unique visitors” parameter (or “sites”, for the Webalizer) might be about as close as we can get. I remember Tim explaining all

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these to you when you first reported on your American Antigravity site statistics and made the same common mistake.

AAG: This brings me to interesting question of what your coverage scope is -- what kind of energy-tech makes it onto the ZPEnergy site, and what types of stories tend to get rejected?

Vlad: I'm glad you asked me that question since I'll take this opportunity to clarify this subject again. I guess it is too much to ask that people read and remember the intro brief (Welcome to ZPEnergy ...at the top of the main page) and the "mission statement" (top left, "screaming guy"), which would help many avoid posting on ZPEnergy.com news/articles that would certainly be rejected.

As I've mentioned about our coverage scope in the answer to your first question, I'm just going to add that I also welcome "sensitizing" news on the state of our environment (i.e. pollution, global warming, biosphere impacts, etc.). The current dominant fossil fuel based energy generation and transportation technologies are greatly responsible for the damage done (and being done) to our fragile environment. Maybe, reading such news will contribute to people understanding the importance and urgency of supporting serious investigation of new, clean, revolutionary energy technologies and bringing of those with a strong commercial potential to the market, ASAP.

As I used to tell to our "field correspondents" who were scouting for news, it is the quality of the information that matters (we don't want to post "any" news just for the sake of posting something that day). It is news on practical applications I favor over "fancy" theory. I generally reject submissions of news on the "mainstream" alternative energy technologies (solar, wind, geothermal, wave/tidal, biofuel, classic fuel-cells and nuclear, etc.) with the exception of major breakthroughs (i.e. high efficiency full spectrum solar cells, direct H2 producing nuclear reactors, ultra-capacitors, etc.). The reason is simple: they do not need promotion to the public, industry or the academia. There are gazillions of good Internet sites doing just that, and billions of \$ are spent on advancing these technologies by well-funded and staffed organizations. There is no more value ZPEnergy.com community can bring here and I politely direct the people who submit such news to other "new/free-energy" sites that don't mind reporting on "ordinary" (but still important, of course) energy topics.

We do publish scientific news that has something to do with energy flow at the macro/cosmic and micro/quantum scale (dark matter/energy, black/white holes, superconductivity, scalar/torsion fields, hyperspace, string theory/GUT, etc.). Since I subscribe to the idea that tapping ZPE and antigravity are somewhat related, such news go as well. Same with cold fusion and charge plasma based O/U devices that, some people consider involve a ZPE capturing process not yet understood.

I certainly would like to see more posts falling into some other categories we cover (besides Devices, General and Science), such as Investors, Manufacturers, Distributors, Legal, Testimonials, Auxiliary equipment and Customers... but I guess, we need a working device proven first, right? ?.

To conclude, I tend to reject flaming rants, too high level theoretical articles (even though I want to highlight good ones), conspiracy theories and UFO stories (note: I'm not saying there is no truth in all of them) and articles promoting strict and/or extreme religious or scientific views. In the end, any really interesting and useful new-energy related news is welcomed if it makes sense to be on the main news page, otherwise ... please post it in the "Forum" section.

I think all site operators like us Tim have to find the right balance of news/stories to keep people interested to come back because they find the selection relevant and interesting and on the topic but not overwhelming to absorb.

AAG: I'd like to touch briefly on your content management system -- you're currently using a PHP-Nuke package, which essentially turns the website into a database-driven portal, in many ways similar to CNN or

Wired online. Can you tell us a bit about your experiences using Nuke, and why you chose that package as the most suitable web-architecture?

Vlad: PHP-Nuke was chosen primarily because of its ease of use/implementation and large support base. There have been security issues in the past but these have been quickly resolved (in most cases). PHP-Nuke is also quite easy to customize and can be setup on any server with PHP and MySQL support. We have switched server hosts three times now (due to quality of service issues) and all of the transitions have been fairly smooth. I would say we're satisfied with PHP so far, but certainly, there is room for improvement. The good thing is that PHP is a dynamic system and, being open source like Linux, benefits from the many talented software developers out there that find and fix bugs quickly and implement good suggestions and new features in a reasonable short time.

AAG: Speaking of which, as your site grows & evolves over time, do you see limitations with the Nuke platform that might lead you to another software platform? What are some of the features that you'd like to add to the site in the future?

Vlad: There are clear limitations to how far the PHP-Nuke system can be scaled. There have been several instances in the past where a surge of users to the site has brought the system to a near standstill, but these occasions are rare. For the time being, ZPEnergy.com will continue to use the PHP-Nuke system since the effort needed to switch to a different CMS does not justify the benefits. Features may be added in the future based on our users needs, but at this point there are no plans.

AAG: I'd like to touch briefly on your background. I understand that you work as an electrical engineer as the day-job, and ZPEnergy remains an after-hours passion to help make a difference. Does your training & experience in the corporate world translate into the way you view alt-energy claims & ideas?

Vlad: The short answer is yes, but since this is an interview, I'll elaborate a little more.

I graduated (almost 25 years ago ?) as a diploma engineer from a Polytechnic Institute, Faculty of Energetics (power generation) from an Eastern European country. Even though our level of training in subjects as math, physics, chemistry, mechanics, computer science, etc. was very good, I do not hold a PhD and, in many instances, I don't consider myself properly qualified in "special" math and physics to understand and pertinently comment on high level scientific papers/discussions, as I am often asked to do. I want to make it clear again, since there are still people out there that seem to have a problem with that, and suspect something else in my normal "sitting on the fence" position: I tend to get involved only when I have something important & valuable to say or do. It is that simple. Unfortunately, being "just" an engineer with the guts to interfere ("enter-fear") is not good enough for some scientists with an enormous ego and arrogance (very smart people otherwise), for whom, as a "mere engineer", you're suddenly un-worthy of their time and consideration. They certainly forgot Einstein's words: "Modesty is an inherent property of intelligence. Lack of one usually suggests lack of the other". Oh well, I'm not telling you something new Tim, right?

I came to the West relatively late in life (in my mid thirties, and I've just crossed the half century mark recently) but my skills helped me to integrate quickly (unfortunately, English will never be like the first language to me?). Now I work for a major utility in Canada, doing operation planning for hydropower systems for a living. I have a good knowledge on how electricity is generated, transported and sold in the world today. I must admit, this is a very complex activity and many of the technical solutions humans have come up with, are real engineering marvels.

Certainly, we know now the current system has major problems (huge inefficiencies, environmental pollution/impact, fuel supply, transmission system stress, security/reliability, etc.), the consequences of which are more and more noticed (but actually staggering). Few from the general public know that almost two thirds of the fuel burned to generate electricity is wasted. In the U.S.A., deficiencies in the quality and reliability of the

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power supply - ranging from millisecond fluctuations that destroy electronic equipment to the summer of 2003 blackout that left 50 million people without power - cost residents \$119 billion annually (as per the Electric Power Research Institute - EPRI). Power production is also a major contributor to the global warming and the largest source of pollution, spewing tons of mercury, sulfur dioxide, and other contaminants into the air and the waters. But I think your audience knows all this.

My position/experience in the corporate world, as you say Tim, has certainly shaped my decision to start ZPEnergy.com in my spare time, in the format you see it. Unfortunately, there is not much time left after a day at work and this is for sure taking from the time I could spend with my family, or otherwise for my personal enjoyment and benefit. But I considered the cause worthwhile to pursue and, somehow my duty to my human fellow, to help make a difference, as you put it ("Those who have the privilege to know have the duty to act." - Albert Einstein).

I want to make it clear, in the corporate world of every utility, big or small, there is awareness of the above-mentioned problems and there is consensus that something must be done about it. Most have even some sort of a quota (% of their total energy production) that has to come from alternative "green" energy sources they have to meet by a certain date in the future. Even the old belief that electricity is best-produced at large centralized power plants owned by monopolies is being abandoned and the concept of distributed generation is more and more accepted as the bitter medicine that must be swallowed to get better. However, an array of policy barriers, built up over decades to protect utility monopolies, discourages modern technologies and entrepreneurs and I see a long and difficult bureaucratic/legal battle to take all of them down. But it will happen, no doubt about it.

I also know utilities do pay attention to what is happening in the conventional alternative energy research as the understanding of the role of electric technologies in addressing climate change increases. Most discussions of alternative energy strategies tend to focus on wind turbines, fuel cells, and solar photovoltaics, but other "clean" technologies (ocean wave/tidal, geothermal, etc.) are monitored as well. Significant funds are invested in supporting such research by utilities and there is no shortage of qualified staff and resources to do the work (or contract it out to the academia).

Remember, these are "conventional" alternative sources we are talking about. Our own people from the corporate "New Generation Technologies" group personally told me that they only look at proven technologies, with working prototypes that can be tested and eventually "rapidly" adopted in the utility's generating assets portfolio. They heard about cold fusion but still consider it bogus science. All of the technologies ZPEnergy.com usually reports on were news to them (even Blacklight Power who got significant funds from some utilities in Europe and the US). My attempts to convince them this "science fiction" deserves a closer look, given the mind-boggling potential ramifications if proven true, were cut short with a certain look that made me put the "idiotic" smile on my face and quickly get out of there ;-).

What happened next you know; I'll never forget Voltaire's smart words: "It is dangerous to be right in matters on which the established authorities are wrong". That's why I'm just Vlad and nothing more (for now).

AAG: Now as the founder & manager of the ZPEnergy forum, you have a unique bird's-eye view on some of the tech-stories that the visitors publish on the site. What are some of your top-picks & favorite stories, and what are some of the worst?

Vlad: Oh boy ... of all the things I've lost, I miss my mind the most:-) I wish I have a clear and quick answer for you, but I don't. Sometime, when the thoughts of shutting down ZPEnergy (and getting a life) come back to me, I revisit stories from years ago and calm down, since I enjoy almost all of them now. Even though common sense says that if you don't know what you're looking for, you are never going to find it, I'll try to answer this question by picking up some stories with the bird's-eye perspective (the bird is getting old and must make a quick flight back for a closer look ;-)

One bad story I couldn't forget ("Dump ZPEnergy") continues to hunt me to this day. It was the first time I let myself dragged into a polemic with a skeptic about the legitimacy/reason for a site such as ZPEnergy.com (and I hope the last time even though I had minor interventions here and there to defend my principle of encouraging people to go beyond what they think to be possible). The guy pretended he has spent years researching free-energy claims and has concluded it is all pseudo-science and/or outright fraud. "If you want to waste your life, go ahead" he said, "years from now, when nothing would have happened - still claims but no proof of a FE device - you will prove me right", he said. And I hate to say, so far (almost 4 years later) still no concrete proof of any FE/OU device that can extract usable energy from the vacuum. I am convinced it will happen, and I would give almost anything to see it happening in my lifetime but certainly it doesn't seem to be as easy as placing some magnets in the right position and/or spinning them in a certain manner, as I originally thought some inventors already figured it out by trial and error.

One of the stories that excited me very much at that time was the announcement of S.E.A.S. ("Space Energy Access Systems Inc."). I've been involved with launching SEAS from the beginning, preparing with its VP Planning & Product Development, Jonathan Kolber, the communiqué to the world (which was originally posted on ZPEnergy.com). To me Dr. Greer, whom I've met personally and offered my support for SEAS, was the best thing that could happen to the new-energy movement, primarily due to his contacts among the prominent political figures of the world, through his Disclosure Project public campaign.

For months I worked with Jonathan to introduce him to the people I thought are the "movers and shakers" in this field of experimental research and I learned a lot at that time about how complex these situations and these people are. I have a simple philosophy when it comes to an OU/FE functioning device: the first and foremost thing to do is prove to the world, beyond any reasonable doubt that it works as claimed, period. Again, things don't appear to be that simple and the interests and politics involved are staggering! When talking individually with these people their reasons and arguments seem to be logical and valid but, from my point of view, the outcome is gridlock! I quickly realized this is not something I would be comfortable in doing and consequently got back to reporting news as I get it, leaving other to sort out the politics of FE ... but have to admit I was left with a bad taste in my mouth ;-). The disappointment continues since SEAS was not able to date to identify a working OU/FE device (despite the \$1 mil prize offered to any inventor that would allow his/her device to be tested and proved to be the real McCoy).

AAG: [Running an internet portal can be challenging at times, and I'm wondering if you've had any problems with personality issues, spamming, hate-mail, hackers, or anything like that?](#)

Vlad: Yes, of course, I wasn't spared of any of the above.

With hackers we were lucky, they just wanted to show us we're vulnerable but didn't do much damage (annoying banners on the main page, etc.) We are definitely learning the exploits they use to get in and correct them the best we can so, in the end, we have a more secure site. The problem is the PHP-Nuke software that is still vulnerable and we hope the next release will patch most of the well-known weaknesses. Please note I do not say we're impenetrable because I'm sure that would trigger a rush from the hackers to prove me wrong... Relax boys...we're not worthy! In the last week of February 2006 there was a stream of "hack attacks"; two were successful.

The spammers are disgusting. The fact that we used to have anonymous comments allowed (and also in the forum section) opened the door for automatic spamming. At one time I used to check the site in the morning, before going to work, and when back from work in the afternoon and every time have to manually delete many spam posts (links to sites about incest, for example, were quite aggressive and annoying). Even when we made registration compulsory, since the approval is automatically granted, the spam-rats wrote code that can go through the registration process and then continue to spam all over. Banning the IP doesn't work since they use many changing IPs to commit the crime. The only thing that stopped them was the introduction everywhere of the security code that cannot be read by a machine. I still get spam in submissions for events/downloads/web

links etc. from stupid spammers who don't realize those sections are moderated and their spam will never see the light of day. I am an avid supporter of anti-spamming laws.

Personality issues (hate mail is part of that) are the most difficult to deal with (I'm sure you agree). I was borne with a natural "open mind", raised with a deep respect for honesty and fairness, and learned myself that the universal key in life is "balance". I grew up under a communist dictatorship and know how dangerous are extremist views/beliefs in everything from politics to religion, art, economics, science, etc. (and yes, personal life too). The story of the "two wolves" is always in my mind when I have to play tough (I posted it on ZPEnergy.com as OT with huge success). Here it is for your audience since, if this is the only thing they remember after this interview with Vlad, I've still accomplished something:

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two wolves" inside us all.

One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

I made quite a few enemies among the fanatics (skeptics and free energy enthusiast alike) because I didn't validate their rants. I also managed to tame some of them by showing that I apply the same rules to everybody, and I'm for decency in language and quality of information. I have NEVER censored somebody just for being a skeptic. On the contrary I may say, I encouraged skeptics to participate in the debates and argue their position, but not with a "final answer" like: "...this is violating the law of conservation of energy and consequently it is impossible" ("science priests" please ... we're not that stupid here, OK?! ;-).

The stubbornness (call it paranoia) and the close mind-ness of some FE promoters/ believers is no better, possible worst. I used to take time and reply to every such naïve/obsessed fellow but I realized it is a waste of time and it was consuming me personally enormously. I understand that no one man can elevate another, for each individual progresses by an act of volitional choice. Man, in his communications with one another may merely offer the gift of thought to another, to share and to act upon. We have an educational role, but it is more a "do it yourself" than a "one on one" private tutoring. Just the other day I got a message through our feedback simply demanding: "I want up dates!"...??? It was on my lips: "Yes Sir! I'll get the dates and push them up to you...";>) Sometimes I'm thinking one must be... masochistic to do this kind of volunteer work I am doing ?

To maintain the desired standard for the site I had to get tough, sometimes even when the idea was coming directly from GOD himself ;-). But don't worry, I clearly agree with Edward De Bono who said: "argument is meant to reveal the truth, not to create it" and we still need to reveal the truth...

AAG: Can you tell us a bit about the people who visit, and the people who seem to post stories on your site? Who are they, what are their primary interests, and how does posting on ZPEnergy benefit them compared to some of the other energy-portals out there?

Vlad: Indeed, for me, it was very interesting to see where our visitors are coming from. Certainly ZPEnergy.com has reached a recognized standard in the information we provide. Based on the domain names and servers we can identify, we are visited by all branches of the military (.mil), many from government (.gov – doe, dod, doj, dhs), major defense contractors, intelligence agencies (hi guys! :-), most major universities and physics labs (an European Atomic Energy Agency used to download the entire site once per month until we had

to make them stop), aero-space and hi-tech companies, oil companies, many major banks, etc. We have visitors from many countries outside of the American and European continent (which still dominate, by far). We reached 1200 registered users in Feb 2006. Of course, many are regular folks but with a special concern about our environment and great interest for new and clean energy technologies.

We ran a survey once on people's background and it turned out 76% have a technical background. Based on what I know, I would say 90% of our visitors are males but I would be glad to find out that I am wrong (I'm running a survey on this now since I'm curious about the result).

Unfortunately not so many people post relevant and important news, as we want it. That is something I realized quickly after starting ZPEnergy and that's why we "employed" the "correspondents" system (trained volunteers who were assigned certain discussion groups, web sites, publications, etc. to monitor and highlight the stories that might interest us). Even though we don't have "registered" correspondents anymore, we do have now a much larger basis of people from our regular audience who have learned what type of news we publish and are kind enough to provide good material to us, when they stumble upon it. The people we know are of various backgrounds (but mostly technical and business) and, in terms of age, from students to retirees. There are still good articles submitted anonymously and we thank all these people for the contribution they make to spreading the awareness about the existence of such revolutionary energy technologies among the general public.

Many inventors/researchers visit the site and some do post directly, when they have something to "say". But, for various personal reasons that I have to respect, many people who are very much "in the know" in this field of research prefer to send e-mails to me directly. These may be information they want me to post and sometimes, news/info they do not allow me to publish. Certainly, I would prefer to share the good or bad news with my audience (since this is another way to attempt validation of that particular info) but, in this "business", things are not that simple. You're asking me "what are their primary interest...?" and I wish I could - by some magic power - know that for sure...but I don't. Since this interview is my personal opinion, I think most of our readers and contributors are honest people with a real desire to promote this research and bring this technology to the public ASAP... but certainly not all of them are like that. I give everybody a voice and hope the "Good Wolf" is well fed and will eventually win, liberating the truth out to be the beacon of hope for all to follow.

Posting on ZPEnergy.com has a significant advantage, in my opinion, compared to posting on other energy portals out there. Aside for the simplicity of direct news posting on our site (which was designed for exactly that, not like most of the other energy sites), the message gets directly to the target audience interested in the subject and it is not "diluted" by gazillions of other news on conventional alternative energy, alternative medicine, UFOs, conspiracies, intelligent design and Bible prophecies, paranormal research ... you name it. The reaction to the news can be immediately "seen" because people can comment on it right away (a PHP-Nuke excellent feature). We're also promptly picked up by the Google news spiders and so made accessible to a huge Internet audience.

If there was nothing to the ZPE research, as some scientists pretend, why all this interest and "select audience"? We certainly welcome everybody since we have to work together to better understand this fascinating new science and "properly" release these amazing energy technologies into the real world. I have no doubts that, regardless of their immediate interests and obligations, every one of us here agrees this must be done and that it will happen in a not so distant future.

AAG: What are some of the trends that you're seeing online in the alt-energy community? Are there any stories brewing that we'll see more of in the near future, or any new experimental research due in the near future?

Vlad: I assume you don't want me to comment on "conventional" trendy alt-energy sources, such as more efficient fuel cells and hydrogen generation/storage methods, cheaper and more efficient solar cells, improved

wind and tidal turbines, etc. (we sometimes cover such news on ZPEnergy, if it is really a breakthrough). This type of news seems to take most of the space on the other new-energy news sites. I agree, solar, wind, etc., is free energy but my goal is to bring to the public news about the real Free Energy, the one that is available everywhere in this Universe, at any time and in almost any amount we need. This is the energy of the fabric of space-time continuum, quantum vacuum, space energy or zero point energy, as most of the public hears about it these days. This is the “real McCoy” all of the alt-energy community should concentrate on to speed up the “official” recognition of its existence and the possibility to tap it for useful power. Once that is done, we should demand massive support for the research to improve the prototypes into stable and safe energy devices that can be brought to the market ASAP.

Now that nuclear energy is poised to have a comeback as the “clean and green” large-scale energy generation technology that can “save our bacon” from the inefficient and dirty fossil fuel power plants, I see an opportunity for the ZPE research to acquire a higher status as well. DOE would have to look very closely for new methods of efficiently neutralizing or disposing of the radioactive waste, and quite a few of them involve plasma discharges, high-density charge clusters, low energy nuclear fusion reactions, etc. technologies that are believed to have something to do with cohering the zero-point energy of the quantum vacuum fluctuations. All of them also show a significant anomaly in their energetic balance (display O/U characteristics). I hope we’ll here more and more stories of this nature in the near future.

There are many experiments on tapping ZPE as an energy source going on right now all over the world, some more successful and advanced than others, some well known to the public, others a very few number of people know about (which are under non-disclosure agreements anyway). I think the most promising experimental research due in the near future from a company that is open to the public and we, ZPEnergy.com, support with great hope, comes from Mark Goldes’ Magnetic Power Inc. They have conducted extensive research in rotating armature and solid-state magnetic devices capable of tapping into the virtual photon flux (I suspect another name for ZPE) and producing useful power without the need for any fuel. They adopted a smart tactic by deciding to provide small demo devices first (by mid 2006) to anybody wanting them that would provide irrefutable evidence to support their claims.

This would be my choices but certainly I may be wrong, as many of us have been before in this “business”. But even if nothing gets out in my lifetime I would die convinced that our dream of a working device for the conversion of an inexhaustible and ubiquitous supply of energy (that is the ZP/vacuum energy) would be fulfilled one day.

AAG: How do you think ZPEnergy overlaps with UFO's, Antigravity, and other genre in the online environment? I ask because you and I both sometimes cover similar material, and it's interesting to see how the network of news-relationships builds out from a central theme to create larger online collaborative partnerships.

Vlad: I am aware of the UFO, Antigravity and the other genre in the on line environment and I try to stay “up to speed” with what’s going on there. I decided to keep ZPEnergy.com out of the UFO arena because of the controversy and the credibility problem UFO avid supporters bring with them wherever they go. I see no reason why such advanced propulsion systems cannot exist in this universe, technology created by civilizations maybe only a few hundred years ahead of us (which must certainly exist, as even science now admits).

I tend to agree that given the amount and the quality of some reports and witnesses, the UFO phenomena seems to be real. I personally met Dr. Greer at a Disclosure Project conference in Vancouver, Canada few years ago, and he didn’t struck me as an adventurous prankster or a delusional psychopath. On the contrary, he is a very rational and articulate individual. ZPEnergy.com actually helped him when SEAS was taking shape (we announced the formation of SEAS to the world, before they had an official web site). I have no doubt that if UFO exists, they must employ some sort of a ZPE extraction device for supplying their energy needs and producing the antigravity, inertial-less propulsion system.

Consequently, I consider that ZPE is related to antigravity and then, indirectly, to the UFO technology (if these are real). There are quite a few very good high-level theoretical papers by reputable scientists that deal with this issue (see our Downloads section) and a few devices out there that allegedly tapped into the vacuum energy and produced antigravity effects at the same time. Mark Tomion (AESI) wrote a very interesting book on this subject called "StarDrive Engineering" and he's currently working to build a prototype to prove the concept (<http://www.stardrivedevice.com/>).

That is why Tim, "we" are in the end, two branches of the same tree and even though "on the surface" we can live our lives separately, deep down we are all connected. As you know, for lack of time, I try to keep ZPEnergy.com focused only on ZPE tapping technologies for energy generation. I do not mind you covering such topics as well, since I don't see us being in some kind of competition. Actually, I would be glad to see you (or any other site/news portal for that matter) doing what I'm doing and the way I'm doing it or better, because then my dream and mission would be fulfilled and, I can finally retire, relax and enjoy the life of a spectator.

The idea of an on line collaborative partnerships is good, noble and should bring positive results. But the reality is that often, human nature/ personality issues pop up and, sooner or later, the conflict brings the whole "structure" down. It is difficult to find perfect partners or agreement in all the important (to all of us) operating principles ... but not impossible. I admit, I am stubborn and have a somewhat (based on experience) less flexible view of what is important in the new energy field and what must be done (and how) to resolve this problem efficiently and quickly. My view has, as the utmost priority, proving to the world (politicians and scientists) that tapping an inexorable and ubiquitous source of energy for useful power is possible with the technology we have now (and had for years). Unfortunately, making money in the process (or out of it) is less important to me... but I seem to be in the minority, and consequently, I feel I'm quickly ostracized from the new-energy business community. On top of that, to most efficiently do what I think must be done, I am convinced we need a few powerful people (with money and/or influence) to join in the fight or, we'll remain at the stage of "cheap talk", the only thing we can afford :-).

Don't understand me wrong, I'm not against making money per se, but if that's jeopardizing and/or delaying the "world acceptance test" (and as far as I know it always does) I'm for getting the truth out and waking up the sleeping masses first and urgently. Suppression always wins by feeding people's "Evil Wolf"... and greed in us is so powerful and so easy to lure. Mahatma Gandhi said, "We must become the change we want to see in the world", but very few remember that.

AAG: Now in terms of multimedia technology, have you considered adding audio or video to your site as another means to educate the audience? Any thoughts about streaming media, such as a Live-365 webcast or something similar?

Vlad: ZPE focuses primarily on traditional web content. On the other hand, if someone approached us with multimedia they wanted to share we would give their proposal proper consideration. Hosting multimedia can also significantly increase bandwidth costs so there would have to be a significant level of interest to justify it and clear means to recover the costs. Any content would have to be created by third parties, as we do not consider ourselves multimedia specialists.

AAG: Is there anything specific that you do to differentiate ZPEnergy from the competition? There are a number of alt-energy sites online, and I'd like to get to the core of what makes your site special in terms of coverage, focus, interactivity, and the other important aspects of the online environment.

Vlad: I certainly welcome the newcomers on the scene of alt-energy news portals. I don't necessary see them as competition for now, since I haven't lost (or gained) much since their arrival. As you know, most of them report on a much broader spectrum of alternative energy issues (and not only) than we do.

Sterling D. Allan with his FreeEnergyNews (FEN), PESN News and PESWiki sites did a very good job so far (he is certainly a doer, even though sometimes he seems very much misguided). The FEN "Directory on Energy Topics" is certainly very handy. I am a big supporter of the open-source concept as promoted by OSEN. They have some interesting and useful features on their new site. Since they do have good financing, they may be able to do much more for the cause, but remains to be seen where their ...energy will go. I was very happy to see Jerry Decker decided to set up a news service on his KeelyNet site, just because I have confidence in him and his great experience in the FE arena. His news coverage is very broad, but I find it very interesting (I'm very much interested in alternative medicine as well). You Tim did well upgrading the American Antigravity site (I like the classic one too). Your interviews are a significant accomplishment for which I congratulate you sincerely, and encourage you to keep up the good work.

But ZPEnergy is a simple and pure news oriented portal/forum, which I think, makes it different from all other. This is the beauty of the PHP-Nuke software. It is interactive; people can post articles, comments, events, links, books and submit downloads directly, in a simple and efficient manner. Once you get used to it, the site is very simple to navigate or to get what you want quickly. We also offer a private messaging system to our registered users that is very appreciated. Staying focused on our chosen topic and mission statement, being fair and moderating for quality builds quickly a faithful audience that feels here at home.

PHP-Nuke platform allows many other features to be activated for the site, but I decided for the time being, to use the KISS principle ;-).

AAG: I've noticed a couple of small, well-placed links on the site to "Cell-Processor" and Nano-Tech websites. Are you affiliated with these sites, and can you tell us about what interested you in these enough to put the links online?

Vlad: Yes, we are affiliated with these sites. ZPE attracts a certain audience that is interested in emerging trends and technologies; these links provide our users with sources of information in other areas relevant to the ZPE field. We strongly believe that all of these high technologies are highly interdependent on each other and we try to promote their continued development. Many believe the first real ZPE tapping device will be based on advances in nanotechnology, and I certainly support this approach as well.

AAG: You also have a row of hot-links down the left-side of the ZPEnergy site with a number of well-known energy & alt-science portals listed. Are you finding good support in the online community, and do these sites reciprocate by sending traffic back to yours?

Vlad: The Hot Links section was supposed to list sites that contain good information about ZPE and/or promote research (preferably experimental) in harnessing this potential energy source for practical use. The sites currently there are not all following that criteria but I consider they do provide important information that people visiting ZPEnergy.com should periodically take a look at. We provide many more useful links in our Web Links section.

I want to be able to put/remove sites from the Hot Links list as I see necessary, based on the change in status and merit of the respective site. Consequently, I did not ask for or expected a link back to ZPEnergy.com from the owners of those sites. They are not news-sites (are relatively static – updates are not frequent) and I would not expect much traffic back from them. Certainly, a dynamic news site like ZPEnergy.com has significant traffic and the "hot links" benefit much more from being listed on our site than vice versa. I invited all the operators of those sites to post here any time they update their sites since people visit ZPEnergy on a daily basis... but not all take advantage of this free advertising. Well, I think I did my part providing this window to the news-world for the FE community for free... why some won't take advantage of it is beyond me (I have my suspicions though, but let's not go there).

We also have the “Other Info-Sources” section where we list some of the good news sites reporting on alternative energy topics, some of the best discussion groups (on yahoo, escribe, interac, etc.) and sites that belong to some of our good new-energy publications (magazines). The reality is that I am not finding good support from most of these sites with regard to highlighting ZPE related subjects when they are posted on the respective site. I am still puzzled why the moderator of an alt-energy group for example, would not put a note on ZPEnergy.com that there is/was an interesting discussion of this topic on their list and invite the people interested to learn more to check it out? Again, this is like placing an ad for free in the classifieds section of a specialized international newspaper when you want to communicate or sell something of that nature. It would make sense to do it, would it not? What can “prevent” these people to understand/accept such a simple concept, especially when everybody stands only to win? You tell me, because I certainly suspect the human nature and you know which one of the wolves.

AAG: What about advertisers? I've seen a few on the site, and I'm wondering if you're considering advertising as a means to build a sustainable revenue model. After all, there are worst things than advertising -- such as pay-per-view site access, which is the kiss of death for many websites.

Vlad: My original concept for ZPEnergy.com was to be free for all and totally independent such that there will be no interests suspected or involved in running this site. When you want to make money with a website people always suspect you would do almost anything to make as much money as you can. And that is usually true. I was willing to put down the funds required to buy the domain name and host the site (the PHP-Nuke is free software). My son and I did the actual site development in house (literally) in our spare time and had great fun doing it (exotic research is like a hobby to us).

I also pledged to report the news as it is, in an honest and unbiased manner. I didn't want to be controlled by anybody/anything, and having sponsors usually does exactly that, since you become dependent on their money. The site was conceived to be “run” by its users and/or voluntaries, that is, passionate people that would “work” for free because they understand the importance of their action and because they love it, of course.

As you can see Tim, my interest was (and still is) disseminating good information on the subject of ZPE research to the general public, in an objective manner. The few “neutral” advertising you see (Google ads, Alternative Energy Store and the books that sell on Amazon) helps us a little with the regular expenses involved in maintaining a web site these days. There was/is no sustainable revenue model built for ZPEnergy.com but, as I'll elaborate in the reply to your next question, that may change soon. Most people didn't understand the “beautiful” simplicity and usefulness of what we offered to them and the fact that they need to get involved for this site to survive and help us all get smarter. The sad reality of today's world is that most of the public is asleep and many would rather take care everyday of their virtual pet or Tamagotchi than do something real, to contribute to the mass promotion of science and of new bold ideas that may one day save this world from very tough times.

AAG: I'd also like to touch on your "help wanted" sign, which is the E-quivalent of the old-style banners you'd see on shop windows. What kind of assistance are you looking for, and how can the public help?

Vlad: Thank you Tim for tackling this delicate and important subject. I'll explain here why and what determined me to put this sign (this is also available in the “Important message” link from the “HELP WANTED” block at the bottom of the main page).

Starting last summer most of our original team members and field correspondents graduated and joined the “work force” and/or changed family status, and were no longer available to support ZPEnergy.com on a regular basis. Unfortunately, personal and family issues only allow me and Rob (my only faithful co-moderator from Sweden) to moderate the postings, maintain the site and keep up with the correspondence, and very little time (if any) for news (re)search.

So far, we failed to find committed people to act as reliable and stable correspondents to monitor various active sites and discussion lists dealing with advanced energy topics. This was quite a surprise to us, given the number of people and organizations visiting our site on a regular basis. We had the false impression that there are many people out there passionate about this subject who would be more than happy and eager to get directly involved with ZPEnergy.com. But even if they exist, they obviously do not subscribe to our idea of freely sharing important information with others in an altruistic, truthful and unbiased manner.

You probably have noticed that for the past few months we have added a menu item "Support ZPEnergy" to the "Modules" left side block. As expected, even those who might be able to support with small donations those who volunteer their own free time to provide this service to others, are not willing to do it. Indeed, we intended this service to be free and open to everybody, but the assumption was that there would be plenty of people who would get involved, just because they see the usefulness and timeliness of this idea behind ZPEnergy.com. So far no contributions, so this attempt has failed as well.

Consequently, this site currently relies exclusively on its users to supply it with information. From past experience, most of our published material came from our correspondents and only a small percentage from the registered or anonymous users. This is not to say we don't have regular and very active patrons (that are not our "listed" correspondents - and we thank them for their important contribution), but we think that they alone would not be able to keep this site alive.

Monitoring the many "New Energy" related discussion groups on the Internet is very important but also very time consuming. Since the only efficient way to do it is to have correspondents from among the regular members of these lists (which we failed to secure as mentioned above), we made a last attempt, this time appealing to the moderators of these discussion groups. We asked them to act as our correspondents and select, for the general public, the type of news/articles ZPEnergy.com is specialized in providing. We thought this would be to their advantage, attracting more people to the respective group who would want to follow the highlighted threads and eventually discover other interesting ones on subjects we do not cover, but still very interesting (as there are so many diverse topics discussed on these lists). We asked everybody to please pass this appeal to the moderators of their favorite list(s) and ask them to contact us directly, if they want to collaborate with us. No contact so far for this specific reason; only Dr. Jack Sarfatti sends e-mails to me with threads he knows could be of interest to us (thank you Jack). This is not to say I am not on many private e-mail lists that circulate among the various FE groups and researchers, but this is not what we asked for in our cry for help.

Well, this is the kind of assistance we're still looking for. The supply of good news for ZPEnergy.com is not as poor as anticipated, but has clearly declined from the time we had the field correspondents systematically monitoring their own little piece of the FE/OU scene. Is this too much to ask? I know that if we could pay people to do this monitoring and reporting activity - which, if divided properly, would not take more than ½ an hour per day - there would probably be many offers. Actually people who thought we offer employment already contacted us, but when I told them this would be a "work of love" never heard from them again:-). People's level of consciousness is certainly not ready for a FE world. We feel ahead of the times with the attitude we have and the ideas we promote, but if the world is not ready to help itself, so be it.

AAG: Where do you see the ZPEnergy forum going in the future, and how will your role change as it matures?

Vlad: In my original "Help Wanted" appeal I said that "...if this appeal to the moderators fails as well, we're contemplating passing the operating responsibility of this site to some other entity or group that would want to continue to maintain ZPEnergy.com alive, in the same spirit we have done it so far. They must prove to have the means (resources & know-how) to do it. This is not selling it (yet); just an attempt to keep it alive, if somebody finds it worthwhile doing that. Rob and I may continue to be moderators, but we'll have to negotiate the "authority" and "responsibility" the new "operational owner" will have. If we do not find any satisfactory offer, we're afraid that with our little available time to dedicate to supplying ZPEnergy.com with "fuel", this site

will eventually die a “natural” death (diagnostic? ... human apathy and lack of vision - according to us, or a “false hope” from the start - according to others).

Sad indeed, but on the other hand, there are other sites now that have copied our idea of a FE dedicated News site for the general audience (THE People) and are doing it well (of course none, in our opinion, is currently able to fill the gap ZPEnergy.com will leave behind).

We sincerely appreciate the passion and commitment to a better future through a revolution in science - in general, and energy science - in particular, that many of you strongly believe in and fight for. For people like you, we want to apologize if you consider this as letting you down. As somebody well said: A person is only as valuable as she/he can be of help to others”.

On the other hand, there are signs people started to understand what we offered to them and how little effort that is necessary to make this site what it almost was and what it still hopes to be when (and if) it matures.

We were approached a few times by various entrepreneurs/business-people who offered to contribute to greatly expand the current scope of our site and transform ZPEnergy.com into a multimedia driven, business oriented center for the FE/OU community. I did not say no just because I wanted to see what are they up to, but neither I jumped with joy since I know, the “spirit” of ZPEnergy would be lost. So far I never heard from them again and I’m not holding my breath.

So Tim, as you can see, I do as much as I can to keep ZPEnergy.com alive without asking for anything in return for my service. But I put the fate of ZPEnergy.com in the hands of those who use it, because it is theirs, and if they want it, they must show they deserve it by attending to some of its needs every day, otherwise it will die like a too long neglected Tamagotchi.

Thanks for interviewing me Tim and I hope your audience will appreciate the story of the first real Internet News Portal for the New Energy community and its master, slave and moderator, Mr. Vlad.

Vlad is the founder and moderator for ZPEnergy.Com, an online portal specializing in emerging energy technologies. To learn more about this next-generation forum for discussing physics, energy, and technology, visit ZPEnergy online at: <http://www.zpenergy.com>.

A large, stylized blue number '14' is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page. The number is rendered in a bold, sans-serif font with a slight shadow effect, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. It is the primary visual element in this section.

AMERICAN ANTIGRAVITY