

From a report by Gary Vesperman

Papp Engine.

Joseph Papp was granted US Patent #3,670,494 for his "Noble Gas Plasma Engine". A mixture of recycled inert gases (helium, neon, argon, krypton, and xenon) is exposed to a high-voltage discharge in a sealed cylinder with a piston. The spark causes the gases to expand violently though no combustion occurs. Mechanical energy is delivered by the piston's displacement. The gases immediately collapse to their original density, and the cycle is repeated. After several thousand hours the gases lose their elasticity and are replaced. The operating cost is 15 cents an hour.

The first prototype was a simple 90-horsepower Volvo engine with upper end modifications. Attaching the Volvo pistons to pistons fitting the sealed cylinders, the engine worked perfectly with an output of three hundred horsepower. The inventor claimed it would cost about twenty five dollars to charge each cylinder every sixty thousand miles.

There were indications that such an engine could provide its own electrical power and being a closed system, require no fuel. It is not by definition an electromagnetic engine, however. It is believed that at the heart of the Papp engine is the development of high-density electrical charge clusters which provide the energy to expand the gases.

Other patents are 5319336, 4151431, 3670494, 4046167 - Mechanical Accumulator, 3680431 - Method and Means for Generating Explosive Forces, and 4,428,193 - Inert Gas Fuel, Fuel Preparation Apparatus and System for Extracting Useful Work from the Fuel.

A demonstration of the Papp engine to representatives of the Stanford Research Institute resulted in killing one person and injuring another. Papp himself is believed to have died from apparent neutron radiation from his engine.

Jim Kettner of the Space Energy Association recently stated in a letter to me that this is the best self-running device he knows of which can produce substantial amounts of power. A variation of the Papp engine is currently being built by Jim Sabori and, if sufficiently funded, was to have been ready by the end of 1998.

In a recent letter from Hal Fox of Trenergy, Inc., Fox states that he believes that the Papp engine works but hopes that much simpler ways of making energy can be developed. There are several groups working on versions of the Papp engine. It seems to keep recycling through the new-energy community.