THE AIR DIAMOND CHALLENGE

by
Michael Bond

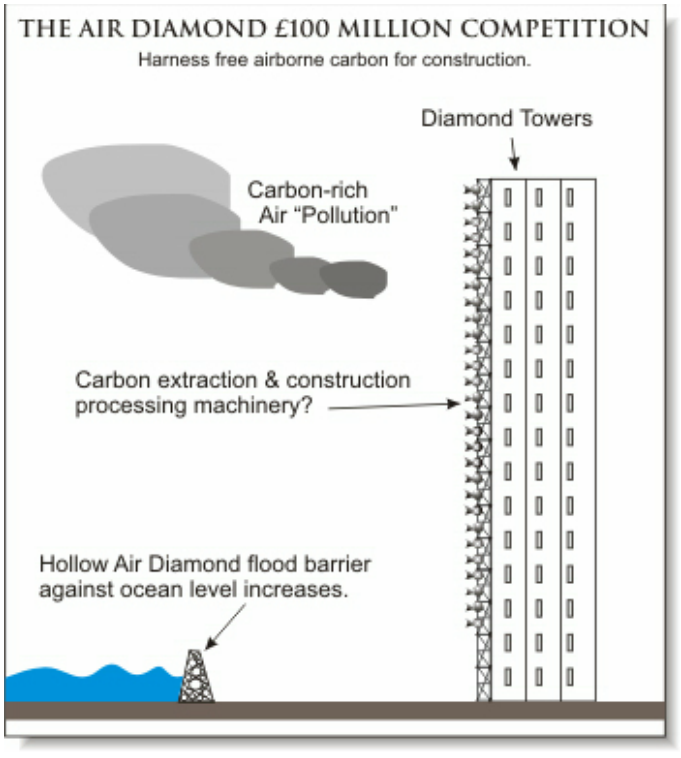
A £100 million competition to harness air "pollution" in the third millennium.

Converting carbon-rich air "pollution" into a world asset for construction and other manufacturing uses - ***as diamond.***

I assume you are well-aware of the issue of the growing greenheat problems facing the world - that increases in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are trapping solar and geological heat, thus causing rises in planetary atmospheric temperatures and altering world-wide weather patterns, threatening agriculture, social and political stability, sea levels, etc.

The commonly-accepted opinion amongst prevailing authorities and their advisors is that carbon dioxide presents a threat to the world and its production has to be halted, while parallel efforts are encouraged to remove it from the atmosphere, with end objectives being to sink it into the Earth's crust and/or adopt other means to remove it completely from the environment.

I believe this is grossly incompetent, and that advocates of such methods fail to appreciate both the value of freely-available carbon in the atmosphere and the developments promised in current and future technology, especially in micro engineering, to extract and utilise the carbon to the benefit of the world's population.



I believe such developments require the stimulus of a world-wide competition to encourage new technologies for the extraction and harnessing of atmospheric carbon for industrial purposes.

It is likely, with the rate of current technological progress, that Carbon will soon be extractable from the atmosphere and refined into its purer forms, especially diamond, and that such an end product will make all atmospheric carbon available for, for example, the world's construction industry.

In this proposal I suggest a competition be established to encourage such viewpoints and the world science and engineering community be encouraged to master the necessary industrial processes to make such an extraction as efficient and cost-effective as possible.

The end-result of this competition ought to be the capability to extract and process sufficient carbon into diamond coatings and structural members for the construction of a modest

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multi-storey building. This will both demonstrate to the public the potential of the carbon extraction method and the potential to create new architectures with new, lightweight and exceptionally strong materials.

The competition will have to offer a sufficient reward to stimulate world-wide investment in research and development of all the necessary technologies. I suggest a £100 million prize for the winner(s).

Such a prize can easily be established by one or more governments, independent agencies or others most interested in the threat of the greenheat and the potential offered in new technological solutions. The prize can be placed in a managed trust fund, with annual returns from the fund offering smaller research grants and covering the cost of the fund's administration.

I appreciate this does not offer an immediate solution to the impending threats of the greenheat, and that other solutions, such as atomic and nuclear power technologies, land reclamation and tree-planting will offer immediate easements to the current problems. However, I am concerned that the rise in industrial development around the world, especially in the third world, will increase demand for new energy and the emission of new carbon dioxide beyond any short-term solutions likely to be adopted within the next two decades, and that some effort must begin immediately to establish long term, permanent, solutions to excess carbon in the atmosphere.

In conclusion, this proposal suggests that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere should be treated as a source of raw material for new and future industrial processes, a potential source of wealth and NOT a pollutant. If this competition is successful the issue of excess carbon may be resolved in a positive and productive benefit for the long term future of the world.

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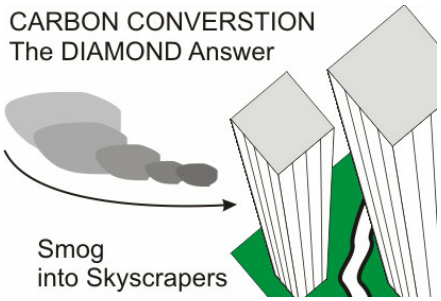

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