DARPA: Bridging The Human-Computer Divide With Brain Chip Implants

TN Note: The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is chock full of technocrats who are bent on advancing technology for technology's sake. All salaries and facilities are provided at taxpayer expense, and yet there is no accountability to the public for their work. Essentially, DARPA has become a private research lab for the Administration, providing technology that defends its own turf.

A new DARPA program aims to develop an implantable neural interface able to provide unprecedented signal resolution and data-transfer bandwidth between the human brain and the digital world. The interface would serve as a translator, converting between the electrochemical language used by neurons in the brain and the ones and zeros that constitute the language of information technology. The goal is to achieve this communications link in a biocompatible device no larger than one cubic centimeter in size, roughly the volume of two nickels stacked back to back.

The program, Neural Engineering System Design (NESD), stands to dramatically enhance research capabilities in neurotechnology and

provide a foundation for new therapies.

“Today’s best brain-computer interface systems are like two supercomputers trying to talk to each other using an old 300-baud modem,” said Phillip Alvelda, the NESD program manager. “Imagine what will become possible when we upgrade our tools to really open the channel between the human brain and modern electronics.”

Among the program’s potential applications are devices that could compensate for deficits in sight or hearing by feeding digital auditory or visual information into the brain at a resolution and experiential quality far higher than is possible with current technology.

Neural interfaces currently approved for human use squeeze a tremendous amount of information through just 100 channels, with each channel aggregating signals from tens of thousands of neurons at a time. The result is noisy and imprecise. In contrast, the NESD program aims to develop systems that can communicate clearly and individually with any of up to one million neurons in a given region of the brain.

Achieving the program’s ambitious goals and ensuring that the envisioned devices will have the potential to be practical outside of a research setting will require integrated breakthroughs across numerous disciplines including neuroscience, synthetic biology, low-power electronics, photonics, medical device packaging and manufacturing, systems engineering, and clinical testing. In addition to the program’s hardware challenges, NESD researchers will be required to develop advanced mathematical and neuro-computation techniques to first transcode high-definition sensory information between electronic and cortical neuron representations and then compress and represent those data with minimal loss of fidelity and functionality.

To accelerate that integrative process, the NESD program aims to recruit a diverse roster of leading industry stakeholders willing to offer state-of-the-art prototyping and manufacturing services and intellectual property to NESD researchers on a pre-competitive basis. In later phases of the program, these partners could help transition the resulting technologies into research and commercial application spaces.

To familiarize potential participants with the technical objectives of NESD, DARPA will host a Proposers Day meeting that runs Tuesday and Wednesday, February 2-3, 2016, in Arlington, Va. The Special Notice announcing the Proposers Day meeting is available athttps://www.fbo.gov/spg/ODA/DARPA/CMO/DARPA-SN-16-16/listing.html. More details about the Industry Group that will support NESD is available athttps://www.fbo.gov/spg/ODA/DARPA/CMO/DARPA-SN-16-17/listing.html. A Broad Agency Announcement describing the specific capabilities sought will be forthcoming on www.fbo.gov.

NESD is part of a broader portfolio of programs within DARPA that support President Obama's brain initiative. For more information about DARPA's work in that domain, please visit: http://www.darpa.mil/program/our-research/darpa-and-the-brain-initiative.

Read full release here…

In Praise Of Technocracy: Why Australia Must Imitate Singapore

TN Note: This article by Doug Hendrie first appeared in Meanjin, a journal published by Melbourne University. It acknowledges that Singapore is already a technocracy and that Australia should follow suit. Needless to say, most Australians will not willingly go along with this idea.

In Western thinking, market democracy was, until the great financial crisis (GFC), essentially the end of history. What could better a system that defeated fascism and communism? Not even Asia's rise seemed to challenge popular rule coupled with competing enterprises. The threat of Japanese economic power failed to eventuate, and China's long export-driven boom was built on continued Western growth. But the GFC has changed many things. The European Union and the United States are still recovering. In Australia, our seven-year grace period is now over. As growth in China slows, we are suddenly vulnerable.

With the economic challenges comes political uncertainty. The sanguine givens of steady-as-she-goes Australian politics are no more. The public won't get rid of you in the first term, stated one piece of accepted wisdom. No more. The Liberals were turfed out in Queensland and Victoria after a single term; white ants already riddle Abbott's government. (**Editor's note**: this essay was written before Tony Abbott was deposed as Australian Prime Minister).

Mandatory voting forces voters to take an interest, according to another piece of wisdom. No longer. One in five Australians eligible to vote did not do so in the 2010 election. Even more remarkable was last year's Lowy Institute poll that found 40 per cent of us no longer believed democracy is the best form of government. The number one reason people gave? Democracy now served vested interests.

But, as is often the case, this popular belief is incorrect. Vested interests

don’t dominate our politics. We, the great majority, do. And we want to be rewarded for our support. That’s where the proceeds of the mining boom went: short-term payouts to our families and our businesses. The political classes rely ever more heavily on focus groups to find out precisely what we want—and then parrot these notions back to us. But do we feel heard? Hardly. We feel the process is ever more pointless. On that, at least, we’re right.

The real problem is far broader. It’s not the political elites. It’s us. The informed citizenry on which a functioning democracy relies is no longer possible.

Why so? Well, what limit would you place on asylum seeker intake? Where will you find the budget savings required post-boom? Would you compensate landlords if we phase out negative gearing? Have you got answers? No. Me either. Yet we vote as if we do. Or we favour our private interests. Or rely on emotional reactions to knotty problems.

Our fickle, populist democracy will not cope with this century’s challenges. We inhabit a multipolar world, with ever-increasing flows of undocumented people and hot money, where non-state actors gain power, where the great turn away from science into magical thinking seems all but inevitable, where we quail from facing the civilisational threat of climate change.

We, the people, are poorly equipped to deal with complexities and hard choices.

To gain power, our politicians feed us populist solutions. We vote, we get what we voted for and we are disappointed.

By contrast, in the authoritarian democracy of our neighbour Singapore, the rulers have no faith in the ability of the public to set long-term policy parameters. And they have fared far better for removing the public from the system.

We need to consider a similarly radical fix: technocracy, Singapore-style, where we hand over much of our decision-making power to experts and step back. Only then we can avoid the fate of becoming the “poor white

trash of Asia" predicted by Singapore's founding father, Lee Kuan Yew. That insult spurred on Hawke and Keating as they reshaped protectionist Australia into a nation with global outlook.

To progress, we need to examine how Singapore leveraged its small bargaining chip—location and people—into a world-beating solution.

In Singapore, technocracy has been planted deeply. Public servants are expected to be technically minded, long-term thinkers and with a deep utilitarian streak. The late Lee Kuan Yew — a longsighted genius with a ruthless streak — is often credited with taking a small ex-British island expected to be a failed state and turning it into an economic powerhouse: an export-oriented manufacturer, a great port, a flight hub, a financial centre, a city-state with the third highest per capita income in the world. But Lee was just a man. Singapore's success came from its system of expert rule, focus on meritocratic talent and long-term thinking.

How does it work in practice? Take housing. In the 1950s almost all Singaporeans lived in slum-like squatter huts. When Singapore achieved self-rule in 1959, the government set parameters — what needed to be done — and the technocrats got to work, figuring out how it could be done. The result? Eighty per cent of Singaporeans now live in government-built flats.

In a technocracy, Italian sociologist Luigi Pellizoni argues, "the elite is suitably 'protected' against the rest of society and is able to perform its tasks efficiently". Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has made this explicit. Our system, he said in 2005, "shielded civil servants from political interference, (giving them) the space to work out rational, effective solutions for our problems [so they can] practise public administration in almost laboratory conditions."

The result, observes Singapore specialist Professor Michael Barr, has been the enshrining of pragmatist utilitarianism as the highest national good. Cyberpunk pioneer William Gibson famously satirised that approach by dubbing Singapore "Disneyland with the Death Penalty". But it's far more than that. In Singapore's clockwork economy,

authoritarian democracy and technocratic operating system, we glimpse a future China — and through that lens, a future world order.

Read full story here…

Obama Proposes $3.9 Billion Initiative To Put Driverless Cars On American Roads

President Obama intends to set in motion a ten-year, $3.9 billion plan to put driverless cars on the highways of America.

Although the plan will likely require congressional approval, it is unlikely that there will be much resistance to it because it offers Pollyanna-ish

goals of reducing road deaths and travel delays. Of course, it will start a windfall for auto companies who will be obliged to replace virtually every car currently on U.S. roads.

The Administration will also provide the testing facilities to bring various auto makers together to flesh out technology that allows "connected vehicles" to talk to one another as they roll down the road, ostensibly to avoid crashing into each other.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said last week, "Automated vehicles open up opportunities for saving time, saving lives and saving fuel… we are bullish on automated vehicles." There is no evidence that the "we" he speaks of actually includes any actual American drivers or car owners.

Who is driving this boondoggle? Look no further than Google (via their super-corporation, Alphabet) and Tesla Motors. Both are already heavily invested in driverless technology and both have buckets of money to spend lobbying the government for wheelbarrows of more money. Of course, it helps to open doors when the Chairman of Google, Eric Schmidt, is also a member of the elitist Trilateral Commission.

One of the main drivers for Google is perfecting the "connected automobile". Every car will be equipped with an always-on wifi technology that will allow occupants to stay on their laptops, tablets and smart phones while the car's AI program sails them down the road to their destination. The connected auto is also a major step in fleshing out the ubiquitous Internet of Things where devices are interconnected with each other for real-time interaction.

Imagine zooming down the road with your iPhone in your hand and a message pops up that a friend just passed you going in the other direction. Siri announces,

> *"John, it's lunch time and your favorite restaurant is only 2 miles away from your current location and you just passed your friend Mary in the other direction. Would you like to send a lunch invitation to her? If she accepts, I can make the reservation and re-route both of you to meet at the restaurant in about 4 minutes."*

Pretty cool, huh? Well, here is a darker scenario: A warrant for your arrest was issued earlier in the morning for failing to pay a parking ticket on time. The electronic notice was spread automatically to your microcosm of the Internet of Things, which includes your car. Again, Siri speaks,

> *"John, your car has just received notice that a warrant for your arrest was issued this morning because you failed to pay that parking ticket you got last month in Fresno and the deadline for payment was last Thursday. There is a highway patrolman 3.5 miles ahead who has already issued an instruction to pull your car over in order to resolve the issue with you."*

The fact is, you will be tracked and recorded everywhere you go. Nothing will be private and everything you do (or try to do) will be micro-managed and controlled.

Welcome to the Technocracy, which was defined as early as 1938 as "*the science of social engineering, the scientific operation of the entire social mechanism to produce and distribute goods and services to the entire population.*" Perfect efficiency, controlled by science, technology and droves of unaccountable technocrats who believe they know better how to structure your life than you do.

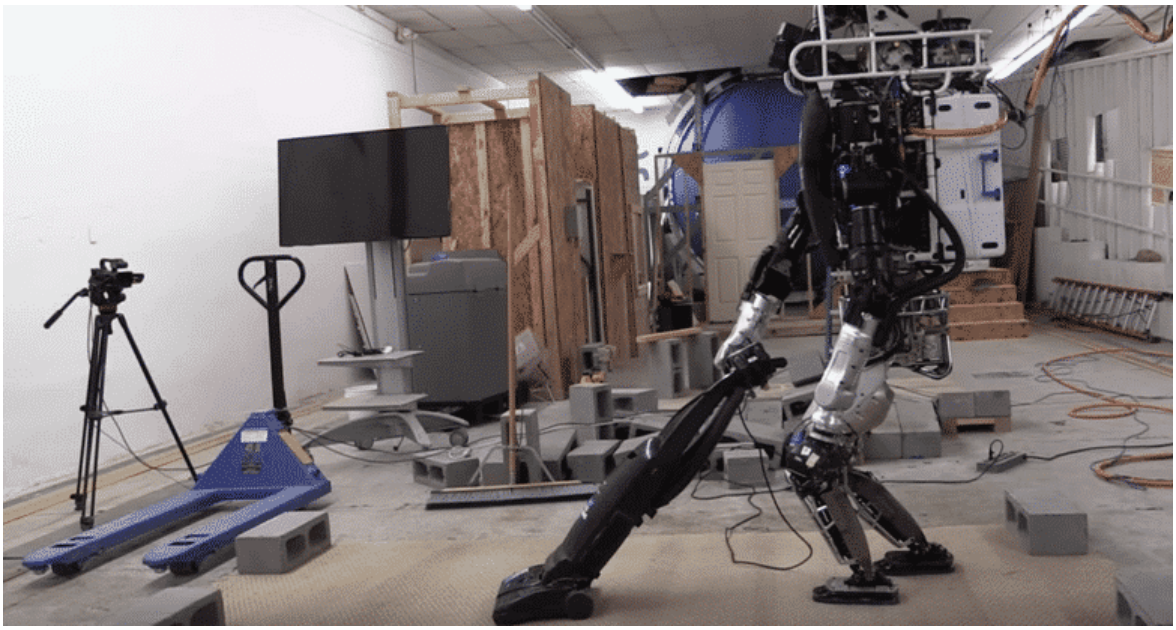
They will protect you, they say. Make life easier for you, they say. All you have to do is quit whining and submit to the "system." You can't beat the system, they say. Resistance is futile.

In short, technocrats are creating the future *they* want. But is it the future *you* want?

Just in the last 7 years since Obama has been President, technocrats have dipped into the public purse to fund major initiatives like the solar and wind technology (a huge bust) and Smart Grid. Those billions were not requested by citizens because there was virtually zero public demand for smart meters or solar panels and wind turbines.

Likewise, Obama's current $3.9 billion for driverless cars is not driven by any meaningful consumer demand, but only by unelected and

unaccountable technocrats. It’s time to say, “No more!”



The Robot ATLAS Will Do Your Household Chores Like Rosey From The Jetsons

TN Note: As you see the practical functionality being build into robots, you can see how they will replace the need for many human workers. What seems rudimentary today will be rapidly developed into highly capable machines.

The DARPA Robotics Challenge put countless robots through a series of real-world challenges that involved driving, drilling holes, and climbing stairs. But let’s be realistic, the only thing any of us really want a robot for is housework, and that’s what ATLAS is finally learning.

The Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, or IHMC for short, actually did quite well at the DARPA Robotics Challenge. But as the team prepares for future challenges, they’re putting their multi-

million dollar ATLAS humanoid to good use by slowly teaching it to do basic household chores.

ATLAS now knows how to operate a broom and sweep floors; It can fold up random objects like step ladders and move them to a more convenient place five feet away; It also not only knows how to push a vacuum cleaner across a floor, it can even operate its tiny power switch without human intervention.

Read full story here…

Washington Post: Electric Cars Were Not Worth The Feds $7.5 Billion Investment

TN Note: Forget the hype for just a minute. Has there been a positive result of massive government backing of electric vehicles? No. With the price of oil and gasoline cratering in the last two years, hardly anyone can justify an electric car. Plus, who generates the electricity that fuels the electric cars? Well, its some other conventional power source like

nuclear, oil, natural gas, hydro-electric.

In August 2010, I proposed this wager to a fellow journalist: President Obama's declared goal was to get 1 million plug-in hybrid and all-electric cars on the road in the United States by 2015. I didn't think that goal was reachable by 2018, even with the huge subsidies that Obama backed — but if I was wrong about that, I'd buy my colleague a new plug-in hybrid Chevy Volt.

Now the 2015 car-sale data are in; time to review the bidding. Americans bought a record 17.5 million passenger vehicles in the United States, of which116,548 — 0.67 percent — were either plug-in hybrids or all-electrics, according to insideevs.com. That was about 6,500 fewer than in 2014.

Automakers have sold 407,136 electrics (EVs) since they hit the market in 2010. That is 0.16 percent of the 250 million-plus U.S. passenger vehicle fleet. Assuming all are still on the road, carmakers must sell 300,000 this year and next to reach 1 million, or 0.3 percent of the fleet, by 2018.

I like my odds! The problem for EV enthusiasts is not the technology, though EVs still have not cured fundamental consumer concerns such as the fear that the battery will run out on a long trip and leave you stranded — "range anxiety."

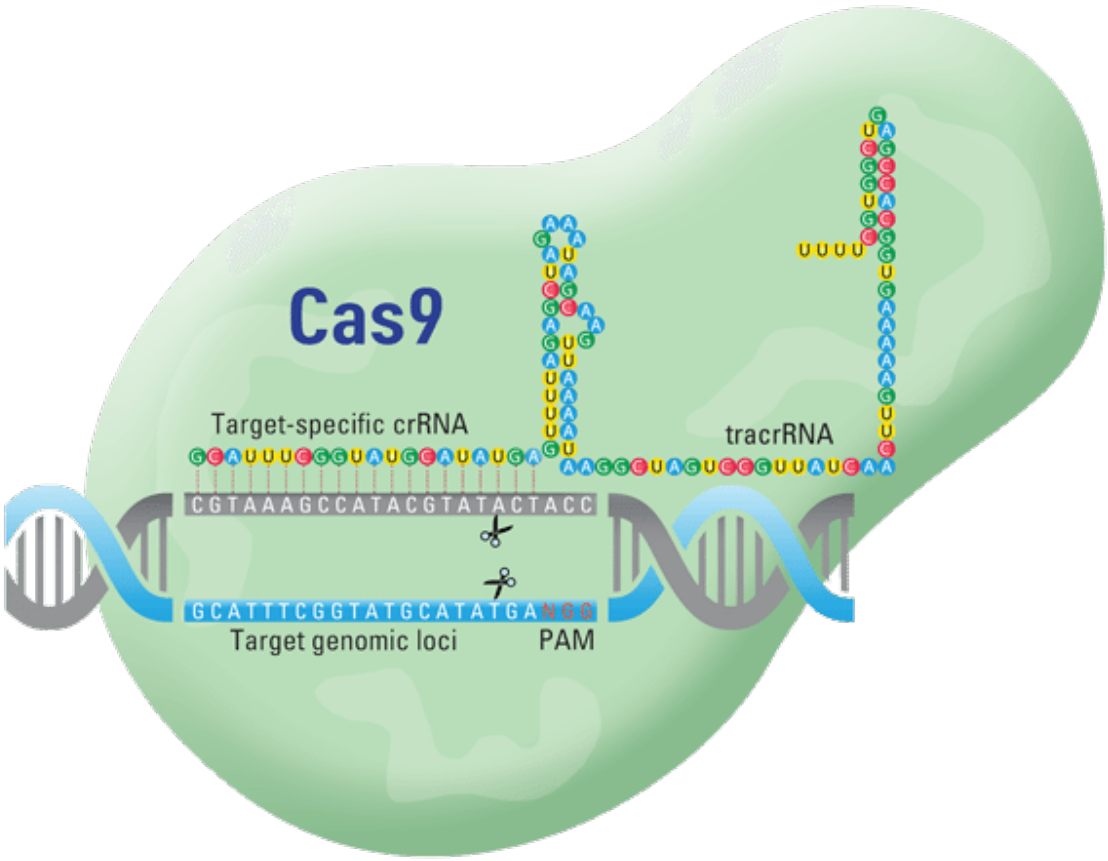
Rather, the limiting factor is, was and will be for years the value proposition: Given the cost of advanced batteries, which has not come down as swiftly as EV boosters assumed, most EVs are still very expensive. Gas savings, however, can't offset the higher purchase price, even when you factor in the $7,500 federal tax credit EV buyers get.

Unless and until that's solved, the raison d'etre of electric cars, and of federal policies to favor them — making a significant dent in carbon emissions — will be null and void.

Take the 2016 Chevy Volt, a plug-in hybrid that can go 50 miles or so on battery power before a gas motor kicks in. The Volt's annual fuel cost (gas and electricity) is $250 less than the yearly gas tab for a comparable Mazda 3, according to the Energy Department.

However, the Volt's list price (with all the options and after the tax credit) is $3,525 more than a similarly equipped Mazda 3's. Do the math: The Volt's gas savings will offset the price differential in 14 years.

Read the full story here…



Stanford Researchers To Edit Genes Of Patients With Deadly Diseases

TN Note: Gene editing on living humans is a slippery slope, regardless of the logic used to justify it. Once a replicatible gene is introduced into the body, it can change the DNA of every cell in the body, and if inherited, it can pass the gene on to offspring.

Tiny vials of recently repaired blood cells are thriving in a Stanford incubator, proof that a powerful new gene-editing technique is fixing errant genes that cause so much human suffering.

Until recently, gene therapy was laborious, crude and unsafe for human testing. But the new technology, called CRISPR-Cas9, acts as a microscopic scalpel, performing genomic surgery with a precision, efficiency and affordability once thought unimaginable.

The research being done at the Stanford School of Medicine, led by Dr. Matthew Porteus, is part of an accelerating research movement made possible using the new technique to try to cure genetic diseases such as sickle cell anemia and muscular dystrophy. These labs are steadily advancing through cell-based and animal trials, as fledgling biotech companies raise large sums of money needed to bring the therapies to market.

“Now, with lots of people — hundreds or thousands of labs — working with CRISPR, this means the possibility of actually finding a way to cure patients of disease increases dramatically,” said Porteus, an associate professor of pediatrics and a pioneer in gene editing.

Using the campus’s first-ever cell manufacturing plant, to be completed this spring, the Stanford team aims to start human trials in 2018. The researchers are targeting two severe blood diseases — sickle cell anemia and beta thalassemia — and several diseases that ravage the immune system.

Meanwhile, scientists at Duke University and two other independent labs on Friday announced that they are using the same approach to fix a muscle gene, restoring function in mice with an incurable type of muscular dystrophy. Their findings were published in the journal Science.

Boston researchers are deploying the tool to treat a rare inherited eye disease that can cause blindness. Other teams are working to fix the genes that cause Huntington’s disease, Sanfilippo syndrome and cystic fibrosis.

But its therapeutic promise is what excites the medical community, especially as the price of the new technology plunges and access expands.

It has buoyed hopes in the beleaguered field of gene therapy, dealt a major setback in 1999 when Jesse Gelsinger, an Arizona teenager with a genetic liver disease, had a fatal reaction to the virus that scientists had used to insert a corrective gene.

These older approaches could not guarantee that the new gene was spliced into the right place. It also risked disruption of adjacent genes.

While there have been recent improvements with two more precise techniques, they are time-consuming and tricky.

CRISPR — which stands for "clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats," or clusters of brief DNA sequences that read similarly forward and backward — is the game-changer. Only 3 years old, it works like the search-and-replace function of a computer.

CRISPR has been in the crosshairs of controversy because of its profound potential to rearrange the basic building blocks of life. In December, experts gathered in Washington, D.C., to urge limits to its use in creating dangerous new organisms or "designer babies."

Read full story here…

Edward Snowden Disguises Himself As A Robot To Speak At Consumer Electronics Show

TN Note: Edward Snowden is the whistle-blower who opened up the NSA's global spy operations for public scrutiny. Speaking remotely to the CES convention, his "avatar" robot paced the stage instead. He was safe because, as he said, "The FBI can't arrest a robot." He says this type of technology can be used to subvert governments.

There are lots of people pitching fancy gadgets at the Consumer Electronics Show this week here. Add to that list: Edward Snowden.

The former National Security Agency contractor, famous for handing over western government secrets to the Guardian and other publications, made a virtual appearance at the Suitable Technologies booth here. This was possible because Snowden was speaking from

Suitable's Beam, a sort of roaming screen on wheels used for remote commuting and virtual meetings.

But Beam isn't just another piece of office technology, Snowden said. Rather, it can be used to subvert governments.

"This is the power of Beam, or more broadly the power of technology," he said in an onstage interview with Peter Diamandis, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur. "The FBI can't arrest a robot."

Read full story here…

Are Climate Skeptics Too 'Mentally Ill' To Buy Guns Under Obama's New Rules?

TN Note: When Al Gore stated that 'Climate change deniers must be 'punished'", we had no idea of how that could play out, but it was a bold,

arrogant and preposterous statement. If 'climate change denial' is accepted as a mental disorder (this has already been suggested by many), then a selective (but massive) gun confiscation program could be ordered against that group.

Today, Pres. Obama announced new executive orders on gun control designed to keep "mentally ill" people from buying guns – but, will they be used to prevent climate skeptics from buying firearms?

Under Obama's new rules, doctors can now report people deemed "mentally ill" to the FBI so they can be denied gun licenses.

As the official White House fact sheet on the new gun control regulations states (emphasis added):

> *"Current law prohibits individuals from buying a gun if, because of a mental health issue, they are either* ***a danger to themselves or others*** *or are unable to manage their own affairs. The Social Security Administration (SSA) has indicated that it will begin the rulemaking process to ensure that appropriate information in its records is reported to NICS."*

If, as Pres. Obama has repeatedly claimed, **climate change is a greater threat than terrorism**, then aren't people who deny the climate threat "a danger to themselves or others" and unfit to own guns?

The idea that climate skeptics are mentally ill is nothing new:

Oregon-based professor of "sociology and environmental studies" Kari Norgaard has declared climate skepticism a mental illness that must be "treated."

Psychology Today published an article listing three warning signs that you are in "climate change denial":

1. "You think climate change is bad, but not *that* bad."
2. "You **don't have an emotional reaction** to climate change."
3. "You **aren't getting political**."

Thus, if you don't think the climate threat is great enough, or you're not

furious about it, or you're not politically active in the climate fight, then you've got mental issues.

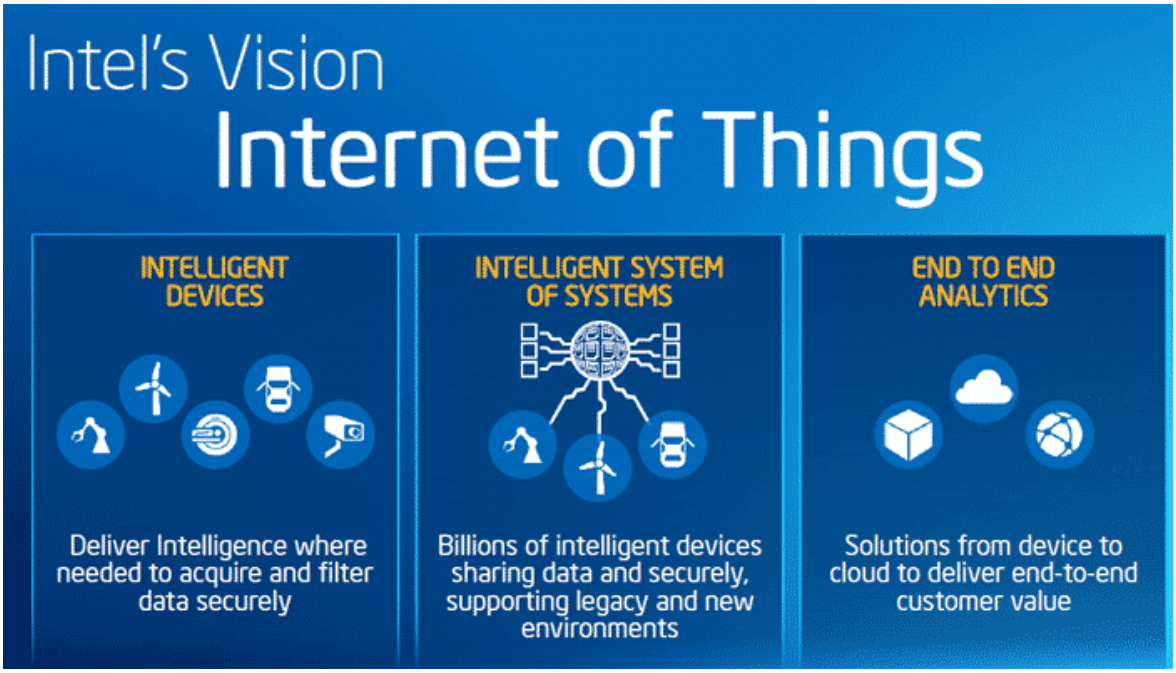
The Telegraph's **"Climate 'denial' is now a mental disorder"** explains how so-call "eco-psychologists" convened at the University of the West of England in Bristol to explore classifying "climate change denial" as a "mental disorder."

Nature.com published an article warning about high-carbon "addiction" (using central heating, etc.)

And remember when Obama's EPA Chief Gina McCarthy declared that climate skeptics aren't "normal" people?

So, you might want to think twice before discussing the nearly two-decade pause in global warming with your doctor the next time you go in for your annual check-up.

Read full story here…



Internet of Things Will Actually Start Connecting With Next Generation WI-FI

TN Note: Implementing the Internet of Things (IOT) has suffered because Wi-Fi technology has lagged behind. Almost everyone with a Wi-Fi router in their home knows that there are plenty of "dead" spots in the house. The new Wi-Fi standard will completely erase those inconveniences while making a strong signal possible to all corners of your property. Plus, city-wide Wi-Fi will allow things to be connected the the larger Internet grid. This technology is essential to the implementation of Technocracy.

There are plenty of blockades between now and the connected-device future that's been so long on the horizon. One of these is Wi-Fi, which has limitations that keep connected devices from connecting quite as efficiently as they could. Now, there's a plan in place to fix it.

The Wi-Fi Alliance, the organization that dictates and advances Wi-Fi standards, has announced the latest iteration of its increasingly indispensable technology. Called HaLow, it promises to double the range of standard 2.4GHz Wi-Fi connections, while also doing a better job of penetrating walls, floors, and other obstacles that can make your Wi-Fi sputter and skulk.

It manages this deftness and range by operating on the 900MHz band, a chunk of spectrum that's better suited for small data payloads and low-power devices than the relatively intensive, battery-straining 2.4GHz and 5GHz bands on which most current Wi-Fi routers operate. To cut through the numbers and specs and standards for a moment: It's Wi-Fi for smartwatches and Internet-enabled coffee makers and whatever other connected appliance might suit your deranged fancy.

"For a consumer, you might imagine someone who wants to deploy a water sensor in their basement to detect flooding or a motion sensor at the end of their driveway to warn them of someone arriving late at

night," says Kevin Robinson, Wi-Fi Alliance vice-president of marketing. "In both of these cases, Wi-Fi HaLow will deliver power-efficient connectivity to the home access point (and the Internet) despite the challenging environment caused by obstructions in the device's path or ranges involved."

At this point you might be wondering why we'd need such a thing, when so much of what we've just described is already capably handled by Bluetooth, the connectivity tech of choice for most low-powered, online devices. You're right to wonder! There are a few potential answers, the most important of which being that Wi-Fi connects devices directly to the Internet, not just to another device. That may not seem so important now, but it will be critical as wearables, in particular, strive to become truly untethered. Eventually, connected devices need to transition from Pinocchio to real boy. HaLow should help that process.

Also, unlike Bluetooth, Wi-Fi Halow's ambitions extend quite a bit further than than your living room.

"Wi-Fi HaLow is well suited to meet the unique needs of the Smart Home, Smart City, and industrial markets," says Edgar Figueroa, Wi-Fi Alliance President and CEO. "[It] expands the unmatched versatility of Wi-Fi to enable applications from small, battery-operated wearable devices to large-scale industrial facility deployments."

That's partly because, Robinson pointed out, in addition to the various security and interoperability features found in the Wi-Fi you know, HaLow will also share its ability to "support thousands of devices per access point." That means a business that requires huge numbers of environmental monitoring stations across multiple facilities would have a simple, integrated way to keep track of them.

Read full story here…

Trilateral President of Croatia Nominates Technocrat PM-Designate

TN Note: Pay close attention to this story. The president of Croatia is 47 year-old **Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović.** Notably, she is also a member of the elitist Trilateral Commission which has sponsored the implementation of Technocracy since 1973. After intense political debate lasting weeks, Tihomir Oreskovic has been appointed as Prime Minister and simultaneously widely hailed in the European press as a **technocrat.** Why would Kitarović appoint a technocrat? Because the strategic mission of the Trilateral Commission is to implement Technocracy. (See *Technocracy Rising: The Trojan Horse of Global Transformation*.)

Croatia's president on Wednesday designated pharmaceutical executive Tihomir Oreskovic to become prime minister, nominating a technocrat put forward by conservatives and reformists after weeks of talks following an inconclusive Nov. 8 election.

The European Union’s newest member state needs stable government quickly as it is under pressure from Brussels to decisively tackle fiscal woes and high public debt as well as pave the way for more investment notably in the private sector.

“He (Oreskovic) convinced me that he has support of 78 parliamentary deputies,” President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic said. Parliament has 151 seats.

Oreskovic, 49, a pharmaceutical expert working as a senior manager in Israel-based Teva Pharmaceuticals, now has 30 days to win approval for his cabinet in the parliament.
“I’ll invest all my knowledge and energy so that we can start solving the huge number of problems that we have,” Oreskovic said after his nomination.

The conservative HDZ and the reformist “Most” (Croatian for “bridge”) party struck a deal on Wednesday after six weeks of talks on potential coalitions, which also included the outgoing government’s Social Democrats..

Most, made up of municipal politicians and independents, insisted on a technocrat prime minister as a guarantor of reformist intentions on fiscal management and the economy.

Croatia, once part of old socialist federal Yugoslavia, is under EU pressure to overhaul its costly and inefficient public sector and liberalise its economy to spur investment and tame high public debt, now close to 90 percent of GDP.

Read full story here…