CLAIMS

1. A bridge assembly comprising

(i) a plurality of bridge members connectable together to form a bridge, each of the bridge members including a blower for producing air and a periphery skirt configured to trap the produced air to create an air cushion for hovering the respective bridge member above a surface; and

(ii) a loading cassette arranged to store the plurality of bridge members.

2. A bridge assembly according to claim 1, wherein each bridge member includes a connecting shoulder for coupling to corresponding shoulders of a like bridge member.

3. A bridge assembly according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the blower and the periphery skirt is configured to create the air cushion to hover the respective bridge member at a height of about 0.7m above the surface.

~~4. A bridge assembly according to any preceding claim, further comprising a loading cassette arranged to store the plurality of bridge members.~~

~~5~~ 4. A bridge assembly according to any preceding claim~~claim 4~~, wherein the loading cassette is arranged to store each one of the plurality of bridge members one on top of another.

~~6~~5. A bridge assembly according to claim ~~5~~4, wherein the loading cassette includes support members for supporting respective ones of the plurality of bridge members one on top of another.

~~7~~6. A bridge assembly according to claim 5~~6~~, wherein the support members are configured to be movable to lower or raise the respective bridge member.

~~8~~7. A bridge assembly according to any preceding claim~~of claims 4 to 7~~, further comprising a lug arranged to push each of the plurality of bridge members out of the loading cassette when the bridge members are on hover.

~~9~~8. A bridge assembly according to any preceding claim, wherein each bridge member includes a power inlet for receiving power.

~~10~~9. A bridge assembly according to any preceding claim, wherein each bridge member includes a power outlet for outputting power.

~~11~~10. A bridge assembly according to claim ~~9~~8 and when dependent on claim ~~10~~9, wherein the power inlet of a first one of the plurality of bridge members is configured to receive power from the power outlet of a second one of the plurality of bridge members.

~~10~~11. A bridge assembly according to any preceding claim, wherein the periphery skirt of each bridge member is arranged to extend between a respective bridge member and the surface.

~~11~~12. A landing craft comprising a bridge assembly according to any preceding claim.

~~12~~13. A barge comprising a bridge assembly according to any of claims 1 to ~~10~~11.

~~13~~14. A vehicle comprising a bridge assembly according to any of claims 1 to ~~10~~11.

~~14. A bridge member for forming part of a bridge, the bridge member including means for connecting to a like bridge member, a blower for producing air and a periphery skirt configured to trap the produced air to create an air cushion for hovering the respective bridge member above a surface.~~

15. A method for deploying a bridge assembly to form a bridge, the bridge assembly comprising a plurality of bridge members; the method comprising

(i) hovering each of the bridge members above a surface;

(ii) connecting each of the hovering bridge members together to form the bridge; and

(iii) allowing the bridge to descend on the surface.; wherein the method further comprises, prior to step (i), lowering a first one of the plurality of bridge members from a loading cassette; hovering the first one of the plurality of bridge members and pushing the first one of the plurality of bridge members out of the loading cassette.

16. A method according to claim 15, further comprising

hovering each of the bridge members at about 0.7m aboutabove the surface.

~~17. A method according to claim 15 or 16, further comprising prior to step (i), lowering a first one of the plurality of bridge members from a loading cassette; hovering the first one of the plurality of bridge members and pushing the first one of the plurality of bridge members out of the loading cassette.~~

~~18~~17. A method according to claim ~~17~~15 or 16, further comprising after the first one is pushed out of the loading cassette, lowering a second one of the plurality of bridge members, hovering the second one of the plurality of bridge members, and coupling the second one to the first one of the plurality of bridge members in an end-to-end arrangement.

~~19~~18. A method according to claim ~~18~~17, further comprising pushing the second one of the plurality of bridge members out of the loading cassette

so as to move the first one of the plurality of bridge members further away from the loading cassette.

~~20~~19. A method according to claim ~~19~~18, wherein step (iii) includes turning off power to the plurality of bridge members to enable the bridge to descend to the surface.