Claims:

1. A system, comprising

a plurality of power generating devices, the devices each having:

a pressure chamber, the pressure chamber is a reservoir for a fluid; and ~~the pressure chamber is a reservoir for a fluid; wherein~~

a conductor for receiving a lightning strike, wherein the conductor ~~passing~~ passes through the pressure chamber;

wherein the pressure chamber is arranged such that the fluid is pressurised when a~~the~~ conductor receives a lightning strike;

the system further comprising a turbine in fluid communication with the plurality of power generating devices; wherein the system is arranged such that ~~pressurised~~ fluid pressurised in the power generating devices flows ~~from the plurality of power generating devices~~ to the turbine.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the pressure chambers comprises a valve between the pressure chamber and the turbine, arranged to selectively release pressure from the pressure chamber.

3. A system according to any preceding claim, further comprising a hydraulic accumulator between the turbine and the pressure chambers of the power generating devices, arranged to store pressure produced by the power generating devices, and further arranged to release stored pressure to the turbine.

4. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the conductors comprise a section of increased electrical resistance within the pressure chambers.

5. A system according to any preceding claim wherein one or more of the power generating devices further comprises pressurising means to pressurise its respective pressure chamber.

6. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein one or more of the pressure chambers has a first wall and a second wall surrounding the first wall, and

wherein the conductor at least partially surrounds the first wall of the pressure chamber.

7. A method of generating power comprising at a plurality of power generating devices:

conducting lightning strikes through one or more electrically insulated pressurised chambers; and

channelling fluid heated by the energy of the lightning strike from the pressurised chambers in the plurality of power generating devices to a turbine; wherein

the fluid is displaced by expansion of heated fluid.

8. A method of generating power according to claim 7, wherein

the lightning strike is conducted through the pressure chamber by an electrically conducting structure; and the method further comprises:

selectively channelling fluid from the power generating devices to the turbine through pressure release valves.

9. A method according to claim 7 or claim 8, further comprising storing pressure generated in the pressure chambers in a hydraulic accumulator, and selectively releasing the stored pressure to the turbine.

10. A method of generating electrical power according to claim 8 or claim 9 further comprising pressurising fluid within the pressurised chamber prior to a lightning strike.

11. A system, comprising:

a power generating device, having:

a pressure chamber, wherein the pressure chamber is a reservoir for a fluid; and

a conductor for receiving a lightning strike, wherein the conductor passes through the pressure chamber,

wherein the pressure chamber is arranged such that when the conductor receives a lightning strike, the fluid is pressurised;

the system further comprising:

a turbine in fluid communication with the power generating device; and

a hydraulic accumulator, arranged between the turbine and the pressure chamber of the power generating device, the hydraulic accumulator being arranged to store pressure produced by the power generating device, and further arranged to release stored pressure to the turbine.

12. A system for generating energy from a lightning strike, the system comprising a power generating device, having:

a pressure chamber incorporating a reservoir for a fluid;

a conductor for receiving a lightning strike,

wherein the pressure chamber is arranged such that when the conductor receives a lightning strike, the fluid is pressurised, and wherein the conductor passes through the pressure chamber, and wherein the conductor is formed of a plurality of conductive plates coupled together by connecting portions;

the system further comprising:

a turbine in fluid communication with the power generating device, wherein the system is arranged such that fluid pressurised in the power generating devices flows to the turbine.

Claims:

1. A system, comprising

a plurality of power generating devices, the devices each having:

a pressure chamber, the pressure chamber is a reservoir for a fluid; and

a conductor for receiving a lightning strike, wherein the conductor passes through the pressure chamber;

wherein the pressure chamber is arranged such that the fluid is pressurised when the conductor receives a lightning strike;

the system further comprising a turbine in fluid communication with the plurality of power generating devices; wherein the system is arranged such that fluid pressurised in the power generating devices flows to the turbine.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the pressure chambers comprises a valve between the pressure chamber and the turbine, arranged to selectively release pressure from the pressure chamber.

3. A system according to any preceding claim, further comprising a hydraulic accumulator between the turbine and the pressure chambers of the power generating devices, arranged to store pressure produced by the power generating devices, and further arranged to release stored pressure to the turbine.

4. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the conductors comprise a section of increased electrical resistance within the pressure chambers.

5. A system according to any preceding claim wherein one or more of the power generating devices further comprises pressurising means to pressurise its respective pressure chamber.

6. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein one or more of the pressure chambers has a first wall and a second wall surrounding the first wall, and wherein the conductor at least partially surrounds the first wall of the pressure chamber.

7. A method of generating power comprising at a plurality of power generating devices:

conducting lightning strikes through one or more electrically insulated pressurised chambers; and

channelling fluid heated by the energy of the lightning strike from the pressurised chambers in the plurality of power generating devices to a turbine; wherein

the fluid is displaced by expansion of heated fluid.

8. A method of generating power according to claim 7, wherein

the lightning strike is conducted through the pressure chamber by an electrically conducting structure; and the method further comprises:

selectively channelling fluid from the power generating devices to the turbine through pressure release valves.

9. A method according to claim 7 or claim 8, further comprising storing pressure generated in the pressure chambers in a hydraulic accumulator, and selectively releasing the stored pressure to the turbine.

10. A method of generating electrical power according to claim 8 or claim 9 further comprising pressurising fluid within the pressurised chamber prior to a lightning strike.

11. A system, comprising:

a power generating device, having:

a pressure chamber, wherein the pressure chamber is a reservoir for a fluid; and

a conductor for receiving a lightning strike, wherein the conductor passes through the pressure chamber,

wherein the pressure chamber is arranged such that when the conductor receives a lightning strike, the fluid is pressurised;

the system further comprising:

a turbine in fluid communication with the power generating device; and

a hydraulic accumulator, arranged between the turbine and the pressure chamber of the power generating device, the hydraulic accumulator being arranged to store pressure produced by the power generating device, and further arranged to release stored pressure to the turbine.

12. A system for generating energy from a lightning strike, the system comprising a power generating device, having:

a pressure chamber incorporating a reservoir for a fluid;

a conductor for receiving a lightning strike,

wherein the pressure chamber is arranged such that when the conductor receives a lightning strike, the fluid is pressurised, and wherein the conductor passes through the pressure chamber, and wherein the conductor is formed of a plurality of conductive plates coupled together by connecting portions;

the system further comprising:

a turbine in fluid communication with the power generating device, wherein the system is arranged such that fluid pressurised in the power generating devices flows to the turbine.