Claims:

1. A system, comprising

a plurality of power generating devices, the devices having:

a pressure chamber; and

a conductor for receiving a lightning strike; wherein

the conductor passes through the pressure chamber;

the pressure chamber is a reservoir for a fluid; and

the fluid is pressurised when a conductor receives a lightning strike;

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

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 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 pressurised chambers to the turbine through pressure release valves.

9. A method according to claim 7 or claim 8, further comprising storing pressure generating 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.

Claims:

1. A power generating device comprising a pressure chamber; and a conductor for receiving a lightning strike; wherein

the conductor passes through the pressure chamber;

the pressure chamber is a reservoir for a fluid; and

the fluid is heated when the conductor receives a lightning strike.

2. A power generating device according to any preceding claim further comprising an antenna electrically connected to the conductor to receive the lightning strike.

3. A power generating device according to any preceding claim, wherein the pressure chamber is electrically insulated.

4. A power generating device according to any preceding claim, wherein the conductor comprises a section of increased electrical resistance within the pressure chamber.

5. A power generating device according to any preceding claim further comprising a turbine in fluid communication with the pressure chamber; wherein fluid flows from the pressure chamber to the turbine.

6. A power generating device according to claim 5 further comprising a valve between the pressure chamber and the turbine, wherein the valve is operable to isolate the pressure chamber from the turbine.

7. A power generating device according to claim 6 further comprising pressurising means to pressurise the pressure chamber.

8. A power generating system comprising a device according claim 5 or claim 6, further comprising a second pressure chamber and conductor coupled to the turbine.

9. A method of generating power comprising

conducting a lightning strike through an electrically insulated pressurised chamber; and

channelling fluid heated by the energy of the lightning strike to a turbine; wherein

the fluid is displaced by expansion of heated fluid.

10. A method of generating power according to claim 9, wherein

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

propelling an electrically conducting device in electrical contact with the electrically conducting structure away from the pressure chamber.

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