

PATENTS ACT 1977

APPLICANT BLAISE COONAN
ISSUE Whether patent application
 GB 2430471 complies with
 section 1(1)(c)
HEARING OFFICER Stephen Probert

DECISION

- 1 This is an application for a patent in relation to a device, the operation of which is based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the basic laws of physics - ie. it's a form of perpetual motion machine. The applicant, Mr Coonan, has requested a decision on the basis of the papers on the file.
- 2 The invention is a variable buoyancy device that supposedly moves up and down in a fluid, by using eg. hydraulic forces within the fluid to change the volume (and hence buoyancy) of the device; the motion of the device being harnessed via cables and pulleys to generate electricity. The invention purports to create energy from nothing, and is therefore contrary to the law of conservation of energy. (Claim 1 is reproduced in an annex to this decision.)
- 3 The examiner has made several attempts to explain the flaws in the 'physics' of the invention, but he has not persuaded the applicant that his invention will not work. I do not think that I could do any better than the examiner in this regard, so I am not going to try.
- 4 I note that the Comptroller's Hearing Officers have refused many applications for perpetual motion machines in recent years¹, and therefore I am also refusing this application under section 18(3) because it is not capable of industrial application (as required by section 1(1)(c) of the Act) for all the same reasons that have been given in those earlier decisions.

Appeal

- 5 Under the Practice Direction to Part 52 of the Civil Procedure Rules, any appeal against this decision must be lodged within 28 days.

S J PROBERT

Deputy Director acting for the Comptroller

¹Eg. BL's O/112/08, O/086/08, O/285/07, O/216/07, O/080/07, O/034/07, O/275/06, O/150/06, O/044/06, O/228/05, O/164/05, O/162/05, O/224/02, O/213/02, O/389/00, O/368/00

Annex

Claim 1

A variable buoyancy and variable displacement volume device that utilises Archimedes's principle for the purpose of generating kinetic energy that can be harnessed from the device's cycle of movement through a fluid resulting from the controlled variation in the device's displacement volume during the cycle of movement in a fluid wherein the device's original volume may be proportionally increased in volume when at a given depth in the fluid surrounding the device and wherein such resultant volume of the device may be proportionally decreased in volume when at less than such given depth as aforesaid in the fluid surrounding the device in each case in a controlled manner by the use of a plurality of controlled and variously acting forces, and without requiring a change in the device's given weight.