

@ Emergent Futures | New Around the World | What Are We Writing About

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Welcome to the end of January edition of What's Emerging. We hope that you all had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

As for many of you this will be the first newsletter since returning to work it is a good time for us to remind you that you can get these links via several different channels and in different ways:

- *If you just want to get the newsletter and read the links then you do not have to change a thing because the newsletter will still keep arriving every couple of weeks . If you want to look at any of the newsletters you can go to download newsletters as all the newsletters and the extra links are uploaded there.*
- *If you want to see the links as they are posted via your Twitter account you can see that by following @futuristpaul (<http://twitter.com/futuristpaul>) and you will get posts nearly every day.*
- *If you want to visit our scanning site at your leisure you can go to www.emergentfutures.tumblr.com where you can see our most recent posts and use the search facility to search for other posts.*
- *Or if you want to put our scanning site into your newsreader then go to www.emergentfutures.tumblr.com and click on the "subscribe via RSS button".*

Our intention is to give you a choice that suits what your needs are. If anyone has any other ways they would like to receive or access this information then please tell us and we will try and accommodate your needs.

Cheers

Paul Higgins, Sandy Teagle, Kim Stewart, Anitha Mendonca, Syed Muqthar, and Samantha Kyle-Little



Business Tips

[The definitive guide to making the most of your netbook](#)

This is a great guide for netbooks but most of it also applies to any laptop or even your desktop. [Read more...](#)

[Fear of bad ideas](#)

Someone asked me where I get all my good ideas, explaining that it takes him a month or two to come up with one and I seem to have more than that. I asked him how many bad ideas he has every month. He paused and said, "none." And there, you see, is the problem. [Read more...](#)

[Thinking out loud helps solve problems](#)

Thinking out loud really does help you to solve problems faster, scientists have discovered. [Read more...](#)

[Make an adjustable car dock for \\$2](#)

Car mounts for GPS gadgets and smartphones are usually pretty costly, and they often only fit one device. DIY website Instructables features a simple guide for building your own that will fit virtually any-and for only about \$2 in materials. **Paul Higgins: With new laws in Victoria that say you can only use a mobile in a holder that is fixed to the vehicle this may be worth looking at. CAVEAT: The rules actually say a**

commercially designed holder – would be an interesting legal debate about whether this is commercial or not given it is on a website that derives commercial advertising revenue rather than selling products. [Read more...](#)



What's Emerging

Hitachi reportedly develops brain-powered remote control

TOKYO (MarketWatch) -- Hitachi Ltd. has developed a prototype remote control that allows users to operate electronic devices telepathically -- simply willing the television channel to change or the air-conditioning to turn on -- according to a report Monday. [Read more...](#)

Landmark DNA study of 3,000 people to unlock mystery of type 2 diabetes

The genetic roots of type 2 diabetes are to be explored in unprecedented depth to help to find better ways to diagnose and treat a disease that affects more than 2 million people in Britain. A £15 million study is to read the complete DNA of 3,000 people, more than ten times more than have so far had their genomes sequenced. [Read more...](#)

Get ready for China's domination of science

When it comes to science and technology, most people still think of China as being stuck in the past and only visualise a country with massive steelworks and vast smoking factories. Very quietly, China has become the world's second-largest producer of scientific knowledge. [Read more...](#)

Robot border guards to patrol future frontiers

Welcome to the European border of the not-too-distant future. Amid the ever-present angst over illegal immigration, cross-border terrorism and contraband smuggling, some nations are turning to novel border-surveillance technologies, potentially backed up by robots. [Read more...](#)

The children of cyberspace: Old fogies by their 20s

"College students scratch their heads at what their high school siblings are doing, and they scratch their heads at their younger siblings. It has sped up generational differences." [Read more...](#)

Overwhelmed with data feeds, military turns to nfl broadcast tricks for highlighting drone targets

A growing swarm of drones keep watch on the battlefield, but military analysts struggle to watch every second of live surveillance footage so that they can quickly pass on warnings about ambushes or possible targets to war fighters. Now the U.S. military has turned to ESPN and Fox Sports to learn how to quickly identify and transmit the video highlights. [Read more...](#)

Did a thirst for beer spark civilization?

According to archaeologist Patrick McGovern this may have been the case when early man decided to start farming. Why humans turned from hunting and gathering to agriculture could be the result of our ancestors' simple urge for alcoholic beverages. [Read more...](#)

'Nanodragster' races toward the future of molecular machines

Scientists in Texas are reporting the development of a "nanodragster" that may speed the course toward development of a new generation of futuristic molecular machines. The vehicle -- only 1/50,000th the width of a human hair -- resembles a hot-rod in shape. [Read more...](#)

Dung beetles' secret superpower: Ultimate night sight

The project, involving a close collaboration with Toyota, could one day give drivers an unprecedented view of the road ahead. Unlikely as it sounds, the project really did begin in a cowpat. [Read more...](#)

A deluge of donations via text messages

A push by celebrities, athletes and the first lady encouraging text-message donations for earthquake relief in Haiti has contributed to a fund-raising bonanza for the American Red Cross, which a little over a year ago

turned to Congress for a bailout. Out of the first \$103 million, \$22 million came through the text-messaging program. [Read more...](#)

Hot startups to watch in 2010

Paul Higgins :*This is Robert Scoble's list of the hot internet start-ups to watch this year - always a good pointer to the future.* [Read more...](#)

The New York Times' online meter will hardly move the needle

The New York Times plans to introduce a metered billing system on its Website sometime next year. **Paul Higgins**: *Good early assessment, especially looking at the balance between revenues from advertising which are dependent on total traffic and revenue from a paid model which will reduce total traffic.* [Read more...](#)

7 tipping points that could transform earth

When the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issue its last report in 2007, environmental tipping points were a footnote. But when the IPCC meets in 2014, tipping points — or tipping elements, in academic vernacular — will get much more attention. Scientists still disagree about which planetary systems are extra-sensitive to climate shifts, but the possibility can't be ignored. [Read more...](#)

NASA unveils personal flying suit named 'Puffin'; flies at 150 mph

Called "Puffin," the conceptual and highly experimental project is part one-man stealth plane, part personal jet pack. [Read more...](#)



What We Are Writing About

Book Review: Confessions of a Public Speaker

A slightly more specialised book review this month.

Scott Berkun makes his living as a writer and as a paid public speaker, and therefore is well qualified to produce a book on public speaking. As someone who gives paid and unpaid presentations in a variety of situations it was heart-warming for me to read stories from someone with a much higher profile and speaking income about all the problems and mistakes that he has made, and continues to make... [Read More...](#)