

Greenpeace engaging with nanotechnology, media et al

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Greenpeace 'position' on nanotechnology

- No policy on nanotechnology as a whole
 - too diverse
- Could be benefits for environment and for society e.g. cheap solar power, clean production processes
- BUT depends on Research, Development and Deployment
- Concerns about nanoparticles

Other issues

- Privacy with new sensors
- Patenting and level of industrial control
- No single person or organisation will have 'the whole picture'
- Exclusion from decision making of those with legitimate interest

Origin of Greenpeace View

- Discussions on new technology as a consequence of GMO debates
- Nanotech and others seen as coming ‘technology waves’
- Set up collaborative debates with *New Scientist* and Royal Institution
- media partner sought for comms and credibility reasons

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New Technology Debates

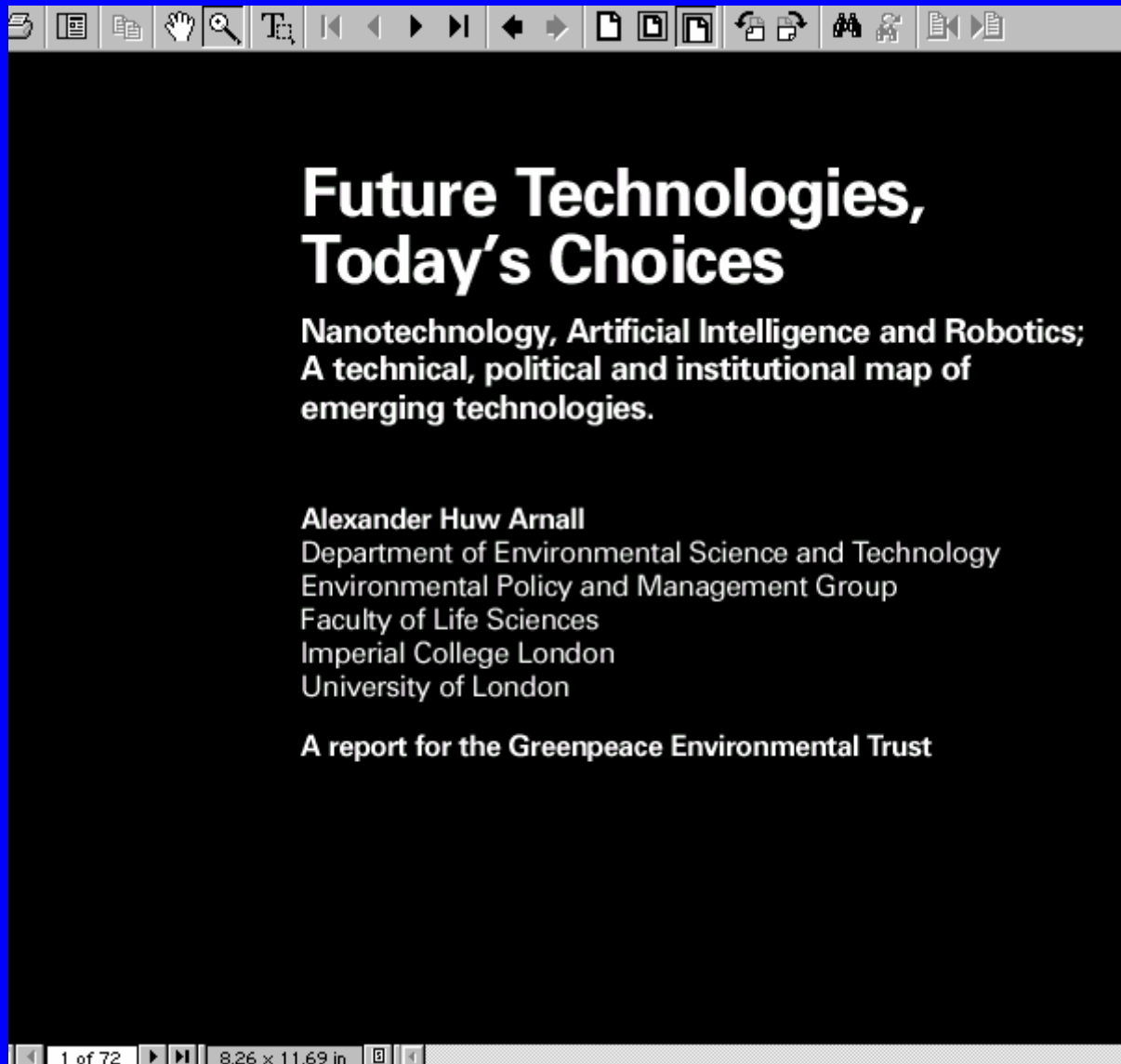


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The New Technology debates

- Expert and interested public interaction (*NS* readers, RI members, Greenpeace supporters)
- What are the boundaries to scientific intervention and the issues that arise?
- Result ended up as QnA more than debate....
- ...and no-one could give an overview of new technology state of devt and impacts

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<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/newtechnology.htm>

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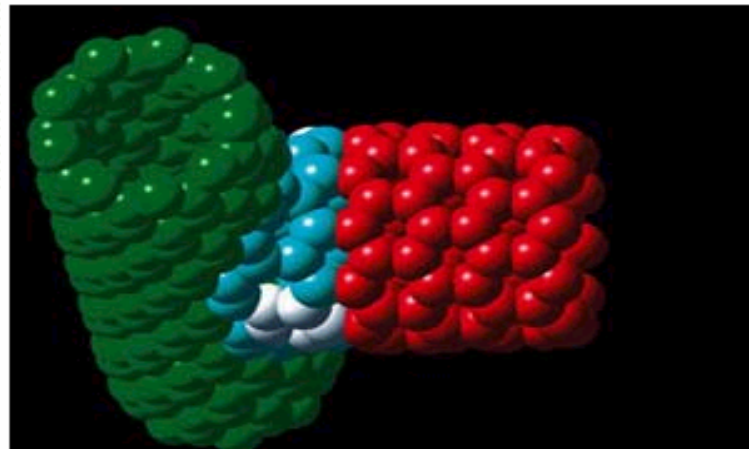
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Nanotechnology

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What is nanotechnology?

Nanotechnology is not really a single technology - it is about doing things at a very small scale. It gets its name from the 'nanometre' which is a million times smaller than a millimetre, or about 80,000 times smaller than a human hair. Manipulation and measurement of things, including atoms, on a scale of 1-100 nanometres is what

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Nanojury UK

- After 'New Technologies' report explored a number of possibilities before....
- Started discussing citizens jury on nanotech (feasibility, partners etc.) Spring 2004
- Needed credibility in natural and social science fields, and some outreach
- After some discussions got on board PEALS, IRC Nanotechnology Cambridge Uni, then *The Guardian*

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Deliberation session in Citizens Jury (in this case on GM crops and food!)

Overall lessons

- Media as partner because of shortage of conventional ‘stories’
- Nanotech engagement limited to very warm audiences at present
- Dearth of information (interpretation and meanings) a limitation to public engagement
- Some recognition amongst scientists and policy makers of structural weaknesses in science R&D