



CENTRE NATIONAL  
DE LA RECHERCHE  
SCIENTIFIQUE



UNIVERSITE DE RENNES I

IETR

*Département : Antennes &  
Dispositifs Hyperfréquences (ADH)*

*Equipe : CUTE & SUMIT*

Avenue du Général Leclerc  
35042 RENNES CEDEX

Pr. **M. HIMDI**

☎ 02 23 23 67 15

✉ 02 23 23 69 69

[Mohamed.himdi@univ-rennes1.fr](mailto:Mohamed.himdi@univ-rennes1.fr)

## **Report on Dr. Theodore Anderson proposition concerning Rain Enhancement via Ionization**

Rain enhancement via ionization is a technology that aims to increase the amount of rainfall by releasing ions into the atmosphere. The ions are believed to act as condensation nuclei, which can lead to the formation of raindrops. This technology has been studied in various forms for over a century and has been implemented in different ways.

The report includes a detailed analysis of the results from these field trials and laboratory experiments, as well as a discussion of the potential benefits and limitations of using ionization to enhance rainfall. The report also provides recommendations for further research and development, including the need for long-term scientific evaluations of the technology and the use of novel methods of measuring atmospheric and meteorological processes. Overall, this report provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of knowledge and understanding of rain enhancement via ionization technology and highlights the potential of this technology to address water scarcity and drought problems.

The Wegener-Bergeron-Findeisen process is not relevant to the topic at hand and goes on to explain that instead of using simulations to confirm the validity of the ionization rainfall enhancement method, it is verified by trial and error and guided by statistical models. Field trials are considered the best way to establish the effectiveness of this method using statistics. Rainfall activation by ionization has been proven to work in controlled conditions, but it's difficult to replicate the results in real-world conditions due to wind and atmospheric changes, making it difficult to predict its effectiveness in field environments.

The work describes the use of a cloud chamber to verify the effectiveness of ion-enhanced precipitation. However, it is difficult to predict the results of this technology in real outdoor conditions. The technology currently relies on trial and error methods with statistical analysis to show its validity. The work suggests that a physical theory that can predict the amount of rainfall from a given amount of ionization in various weather conditions is needed to make the technology more reliable and powerful. The author believes that such a theory will eventually be developed and mentions that some theoretical work and simulations have been done that agree with experimental data.

The work describes the need to develop a comprehensive theory that can predict rainfall through simulations by combining existing theories. The author acknowledges that it is a difficult task,

but it should be done. The technology has been shown to work in field experiments, but the author notes that it is not clear how well it works and how much rainfall it can produce. The work suggests that cloud chamber experiments provide some answers but to fully understand the technology's potential, it needs to be tested in real-world conditions using simulations.

Ionization Rainfall enhancement is a weather modification technique that uses corona discharge to generate ions and release them into sub-cloud air.

Ions attach themselves to aerosols, creating charged particles that are lifted to higher layers of the atmosphere by an updraft, which initiates a dynamic convection process.

This process leads to the formation of cumulonimbus clouds and precipitation. It can be distributed to a significant distance from the ionization system by natural atmospheric transfer.

Ionization Rainfall enhancement technology uses a ground-based ionization system to influence atmospheric conditions. It creates an "ion wind" that leads to increased humidity, convective airflow and cloud formation. This can lead to increased precipitation in the area around the installation. The technology has been developed primarily in Russia, with recent tests also conducted in other countries. However, it has not been fully scientifically documented.

The test of Ionization Rainfall enhancement technology conducted by the University of Queensland in 2007, along with previous tests, provided substantial evidence that the technology has an influence on the local regional precipitation pattern. However, more detailed and scientifically validated evidence needs to be collected from a longer-term demonstration of the technology to make a conclusive assessment. In Southeast Queensland, coastal stream showers in south-easterly airflow are typically confined to the coastal plain and seldom travel far inland to cause rainfall west of the D'Aguilar Range, which results in the Wivenhoe Dam remaining in a region of rain shadow. Positioning the Ionization Rainfall enhancement on a ridge above the coastal plain during weather patterns that produce warm and humid east to north-easterly airflow onto the Southeast Queensland coast would enhance the influence of the technology by dynamic lifting of the moist onshore airflow by the topography.

For the initial Theoretical Modeling for Predicting Rain Amounts from the Number of Ions Created by Corona Effects, he gives a Theoretical explanation of his proposed technic. This part deserves to be verified experimentally with rigor procedure.

The Collision and Coalescence Processes is a way for droplets to grow larger in clouds. Factors that are important for this process include high liquid water content, strong and consistent updrafts, a range of droplet sizes, a thick cloud and the electric charge and field in the cloud. The liquid water content is crucial as without it, there will be no precipitation. Updrafts help to build and maintain the cloud and carry smaller droplets up into the cloud. As droplets bump into each other, they grow larger, a process known as "collision" and "coalescence."

For Large-scale corona plasma discharge system, a test was conducted using a large-scale corona plasma discharge system to analyze the production and coverage area of negative ions that can induce precipitation of atmospheric aerosols in the downwind direction. The nitrogen species dominated the optical emission spectra of the negative corona discharges. The system was found to be stable with a density of  $\sim 10^8/\text{cm}^3$  and had a coverage area of 30 m x 23 m x 90 m, which was improved by using over 300,000 corona discharge points. The test results indicate that the large-scale corona discharge installation can increase the ion density within a certain region and may trigger water precipitation or fog elimination. Further field studies under real-world conditions are needed to optimize the complex processes involved in ion-induced precipitation of atmospheric aerosols.

During a test period in southeast Queensland, heavy rain events were observed, and the Ionization Rainfall enhancement operation appeared to increase rainfall amounts as seen in radar images and measurements in the area. A statistical evaluation of the rainfall amounts, and

distribution revealed higher total rainfall intensity near the Ionization Rainfall enhancement system and significantly higher rainfall amounts in the catchment area compared to surrounding stations relative to long-term historic values.

During a 47-day test period, an estimated 990 GL of rainfall was registered over a dam catchment area, despite severe drought conditions. This is equivalent to several years of water supply from Wivenhoe, demonstrating the potential benefits of enhancing rainfall for water supply strategy. The trial had limitations, such as its short duration and unusual weather conditions, and the findings should not be considered conclusive scientific evidence. However, the findings are considered highly promising and encouraging, with data and observations consistent with the expected impact of the Ionization Rainfall enhancement technology on rainfall generation or enhancement. There was no evidence that the system did not generate or enhance rainfall events.

Expert scientists who were exposed to the technology during the test period generally agreed that the underlying principles of the technology appear to be sound and the claimed impact possible, but more detailed observations of electrical and other atmospheric parameters are needed. A long-term, scientifically evaluated demonstration project of the Ionization Rainfall enhancement technology across different climatic and orographic areas over at least a 12-month seasonal cycle in Australia is strongly recommended. The minimum duration of an Australia-wide project should be 18 months and at least three, ideally five, independent Ionization Rainfall enhancement systems should be established and assessed in different locations in Australia, with random operating periods and a blind test. The scientific evaluation should include direct measurements of rainfall on the ground and detailed studies of atmospheric conditions during the different operating periods of the Ionization Rainfall enhancement system and should be interdisciplinary, involving experts from fields of water management, meteorology, climatology, atmospheric physics and aerosol science.

A theoretical physics model for raindrop coalescence and a model for the number of ions produced from the number of corona discharge points and applied voltage in the Ionization Rainfall enhancement corona discharge device are needed. The ion transport equation is the transient advection diffusion reaction equation which needs to be solved numerically, like the Maxwell Boltzmann equations in neutron transport in nuclear reactors and electron and ion transport in plasmas.

This work presents Cloud Chamber R&D, Physical Processes to Enhance Rain, Basics of the Ionization Rainfall enhancement Model, Statistical Models, Demonstration of Ionization Rainfall enhancement Technology, Australian Research, The University of Queensland Research and Development, Initial Theoretical Modeling for Predicting Rain Amounts from the Number of Ions Created by Corona Effects, Comparison of ion transport solutions using the transient advection diffusion reaction equation and experimental results, Balance equations of ion concentrations, The transient advection diffusion reaction equation, Understanding the terms involved of the transient advection diffusion reaction equation, Derivation of transient advection diffusion reaction equation, Numerical solution of the transient advection diffusion reaction equation and The Collision and Coalescence Processes.

The report on Rain Enhancement via Ionization covers the concept of using ionization to enhance rainfall. It describes the underlying physics of the process and the technology used to generate ions in the atmosphere. The report covers the various methods used to measure and evaluate the effectiveness of the ionization process in increasing rainfall, including statistical models, ground measurements, and analysis of meteorological data. The report also presents results from demonstration projects and research conducted in different regions, including Australia. The report also includes a discussion of the potential benefits and limitations of using ionization to enhance rainfall, as well as recommendations for further research and

development. Overall, the report provides an in-depth analysis of the current state of knowledge and understanding of rain enhancement via ionization technology and highlights the potential of this technology to address water scarcity and drought problems.

## **Conclusion**

Dr. Theodore Anderson has written a very good report on a very good technology. I endorse his report and this technology. Being very familiar to Dr. Anderson's work on plasma antennas and plasma physics in general, I endorse any improvements he can make to this technology.

As usual, Dr. Theodore Anderson can propose an original approach based on a solid theoretical and experimental aspects to improve this technology with his world renowned plasma antenna technology. As in the past with his pioneering work on plasma antennas, he puts all his very good and long experience at the service of a very good cause which concerns the management of rain precipitation in areas that really need it.

For all these reasons, I support any proposed work Dr. Anderson makes to improve this technology, and I support any request he makes for funding to improve this very significant technology.



Prof. Mohamed Himdi

Institut d'Electronique et de Télécommunications  
de Rennes (IETR), UMR CNRS 6164,  
Groupe «Antennes & Hyperfréquences»  
Professeur Mohammed HIMDI  
Université de Rennes 1, Bâtiment 11 D  
Campus de Beaulieu, 35042 Rennes Cedex