

Programmable Matter

History

With the advent of advanced robotics and material sciences scientists have been finding ways of applying these to real world applications. [Sahaadi](#) military scientists and engineers spent the better part of eighty years working on such an application. Simply called "Programmable Matter" it promised to revolutionize several fields of engineering. The military however has yet to release this technology to the populace and have instead been utilizing it for their own purposes. It has been expected however a "simplier" form of the Programmable Matter could be released to the public within the next five to ten years.

Description

Programmable Matter, literally sub-millimeter scale computers are a type of reconfigurable robot designed to be built upon one another to form larger more complex machinery. Each individual robot can communicate with each other to organize, reconfigure and shape an individual object on command. The matter itself utilizes electrostatic forces to 'glue' themselves together into such shapes to maintain form and function. Signals between each individual portion of the matter could be reminiscent of a 'Hivemind' as the greater the number of matter blocks the greater the processing power and complexity of the forms they can take.

Method of Action

The Programmable Matter receives a signal from a local controller source 'telling' them what to make and they begin to work. Each matter block forming up on one another in precise configuration even going so far as to change their color if instructed. They will usually stay in formation until told otherwise by their controller. If told to disassemble they will merely fall apart in a cascade of incredibly small spheroids (Think Ball bearings but smaller)going inert until further instruction is given.

Materials

Programmable Matter currently can be made with several different material types depending on their intended purpose. Usually the 'stock' matter is made of a very light conductive metallic alloy for ease of use and configuration. Carbon fiber, ceramics and heavier elements have been utilized for more 'rigorous' use of the matter including materials with a high degree of refraction for use in heat-resistant types.

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