



**Weekly Letter from the
ASPO President Kjell Aleklett
Week 40, October 1-7**

My first week as the newly elected ASPO President has come to an end and it is now that I wish to start writing a weekly newsletter through which I hope to communicate those activities that are of importance to ASPO. I am sure that some of the coming weeks will be empty of activity and some times very little will have happened, but I will always make an attempt to communicate our work with you. I should also point out that at school I tried to learn English but unfortunately my grades were not always the highest, but I do promise to strive to make myself understood.

The week started with the first ever Podcar City Conference in Uppsala, Sweden. Podcar? What is a Podcar? “A podcar is a car-sized vehicle without a driver, that runs on rail. It runs on a network of high beams. The vehicle arrives like an elevator, when you press a button and then takes you to the address you have ordered via other buttons.” (http://www.podcar.org/podcar/index_eng.htm).

The year 2007 is expected to be the year when more people live in cities globally than in any other type of urban environment. With Peak Oil on the horizon and limited space available within the cityscape we need new kinds of vehicle for personal transportation and the Podcar might just be one such solution. The first ever test track for this clever innovation has now been built in Uppsala, Sweden, by the Korean company Vectus.



Figure 1. In the photo you can see the first ever Podcar station with one car awaiting passengers, and with another car positioned on the main track.

Being at the Podcar conference reminded me of the first ever Peak Oil conference held in Uppsala five years ago where awareness of Peak Oil was first addressed. We can now see the closing of the Peak Oil loop with the first conference on one of the solutions to the impact of Peak Oil taking place, again in Uppsala (<http://www.podcar.org/uppsalaconference/index.htm>).

As a working Professor I am, as you can imagine, expected to teach students from time to time, and the curricula I am focused on at the moment is Energy Technology. A very important component in energy systems is the gas turbine. They are used on off shore platforms for electricity production, on shore to increase the pressure in pipelines, to pump back gas in the oilfields, etc. On Thursday we visited Siemens Industrial Turbomachinery AB in Finspång outside Norrköping in Sweden. This factory specializes in gas turbines for the oil and gas industry. At a gathering before the factory tour the head of research for the combustors informed us that they have recently seen an increase in the number of enquiries from their customers asking if they could run the gas turbines with lower quality gas and oil (“the stuff you get at the bottom of the fields”) and an increasing amount of interest from Iran in purchasing new turbines.

These questions indicate that some of the oil and gas fields in the Middle East are draining their bottom products, that Iran needs a lot of turbines to pressurize their oil fields with natural gas, and that they need their natural gas for more than the production of electricity.

Indirect indicators like this can help strengthen Peak Oil awareness.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kjell Aleklett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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My fall agenda can be found at: www.peakoil.net