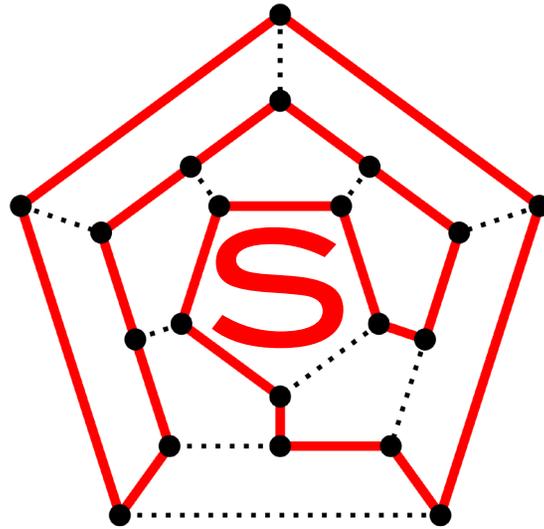


The Secret Project

According to the classified briefing that you received, the product is no less than a fully functional teleportation system. Such a system could revolutionize every single aspect of society. No more highway system. No more shipping overseas. No more travel by space shuttle. No more border security. How will it change transportation? Industry? Urban development? Space exploration? Warfare?

The Facility

Though they are making big promises, the SAT labs are pretty small and humble. Just a single smallish lab and a few other rooms. Are these three scientists the only science staff that they have? Did they really make this amazing breakthrough as a modest little garage startup? You had heard amazing things about Sufficiently Advanced Technologies. The reality seems to be... smaller. Not the giant well funded lab that you were expecting from their press releases.



SUFFICIENTLY

ADVANCED

TECHNOLOGIES

Information packet for

Norman Ashby

US Heliocentric Avionic Systems

Project ISIS presentation

January 22nd, 2021

Welcome to Sufficiently Advanced Technologies!

Everyone in a high tech industry has heard of **Sufficiently Advanced Technologies**. It's the impressive little startup that snatched up some of the world's leading physicists.

Led by maverick businessman **Alan Smithee**, the company has been spawning rumors and buzz aplenty, even without ever announcing what it's been working on.

Everyone seems to have a theory about what the secret project is. You have heard several before you were invited to this presentation. Some theories are mundane, some are outlandish. All of them were wrong.



Background

You were once a poet and philosopher living in Imperial Rome. Now you travel through time and space at the side of a divine lady.

In your life, you have been blessed to meet not one god but two. The first was the mighty and powerful **Tempus**, for whom you wrote odes and epic poems and debated the future of humanity. He taught you that humanity was destined for great things, but he also taught you that the gods are jealous and sometimes cruel. When you accidentally spilled wine on Tempus's toga, he had you banished from his presence forever.

The second was the **Lady Ushas**, who has taken you from your home in Imperial Rome and shown you the wonders of the universe. You adore and worship both divine beings, as is the only proper for a mortal like yourself.

Since the Lady Ushas took you as a companion, you have seen planets and wonders you could never have imagined. Now she has chosen to show you the splendors of mankind's future. You had often philosophized about humanity's future, and now Mistress Ushas has given you the opportunity to see the future for yourself. You're intensely curious about the future and want to investigate every possible detail thereof.

Goals

Obey the gods, for they are powerful and wiser than a mere mortal like you. The gods are fickle and jealous sometimes, though, so do not speak of other deities before them. Ushas might be angered by the worship of Tempus, or vice versa. Better to worship each separately than to anger either.

Investigate the myriad wonders of the future. How does future man live and work and play and eat? Is there still war? Does the Empire still rule? Has enlightened philosophy created a better tomorrow? Go forth, investigate and ask questions. Find out what the future has in store for yourself and the Roman empire. And for all of humanity.

Do right with the world. Leave this future land a better place than you found it, and make joy for its inhabitants. This is as Lady Ushas has been teaching you. She travels the universe, doing good deeds. Do the same yourself, so that you can be more pleasing to the gods.

People You Know

Ushas, Mistress of Time - She is a vast and powerful entity, more so than most realize when they see her. But is that not the way of the gods? Doesn't Jupiter walk among men disguised as a beggar, to judge their worth? She has shown you countless wonders of alien worlds and strange peoples. Now she hides as if a mere mortal, one "Helen Swanetsky" and asks that you hide your own identity as well.

Tempus - A powerful, mighty god that you once swore your allegiance to. But you left his court in disgrace. Now you find him here. You are surprised, but you shouldn't be. After all, the gods are immortal, and if you are in mankind's future, then you should expect the gods to still be alive there as well. Tempus now calls himself "Mr. Manciple", and also walks hidden among mortal beings. Why does he hide his divine nature? Is there some way to make amends with this divine being?

The Infinity Guardians - Mistress Ushas has mentioned these entities several times. They sound as if they are a sort of Titan or natural spirit. Sometimes Mistress Ushas speaks as if she were one of their number, but other times she speaks as if they were something else.