

***Interactive comment on “Brief communication  
“Earthquake–cloud coupling through the global  
atmospheric electric circuit”” by R. G. Harrison et  
al.***

**Anonymous Referee #1**

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"Brief communication: Earthquake-cloud coupling through the global atmospheric electric circuit" by R. G. Harrison et al. is interesting and helpful for earthquake precursor researches, so it can be published in Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences.

The paper reports a possible physical mechanism to understanding observed earthquake-cloud changes. The authors expand the ALICE ideas to connect surface air ionisation changes to the cloud properties above in semi-fair weather with global circuit conduction current, which is a significant improvement for previous view about requiring surface ionisation transporting up to the cloud. In addition to the current physical explanation in an ideal circumstance, I would like to suggest the authors to

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make experiments after considering more actual factors in specific earthquake events in the next study.

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Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 1, 7271, 2013.