

9th Member Assembly of the Research Association for Radio Applications



Forschungsgemeinschaft Funk

On January 25th, 2001 the ninth Member Assembly of the Research Association (Forschungsgemeinschaft Funk e.V., FGF) took place in Mainz. 23 members including 16 members entitled to vote attended. Thus, a quorum existed.

In his report, the Chair of the Board, Mr. Eike Bär, addressed the following topics:

- the main foci of the association's activity
- cooperations with international and national bodies
- research projects of the FGF
- internet and intranet service
- profile of the Research Association for Radio Applications.

Successful international cooperations, less research projects, popular internet site

The main focus of the board of directors during the year under review (01/27/2000 to 01/25/2001) were the coordination of the administrative office, public relations, research activity, and planning of the FGF strategy. Further, the FGF's action towards

current discussions as well as a continuous exchange of information with international bodies like the World Health Organisation (WHO), the European Union (EU) and national institutions were part of the board's tasks.

During the year under review the FGF cooperated with different institutions. Two prominent examples were the participation in the WHO congress in San Antonio and the close cooperation with the European research association COST244 bis. A highlight of the cooperations with other institutions was the FGF's substantial contribution to organising and conducting the annual meeting 2000 of the Bioelectromagnetics Society (BEMS) in Munich. More than 600 guests from all over the world participated in the congress; with the presentation of 47 research projects and their results, the FGF also played an important part at a purely scientific level.

Because of the intensified international and national cooperations, the administrative office was more strongly involved than in past years. In addition, the requests for/the distribution of print information did considerably increase.

In 2000, scientific research projects requiring a budget of approximately one million DM have been promoted. This sum lies approximately 400,000 DM below that of the year before. Mr. Bär explained that

nowadays more means are required for project care in order to maintain the high standard of FGF projects. In project preparation increasingly more efforts are necessary concerning specification, detailing and qualitative standards. This additional effort in project planning prior to allocation has a positive effect on project conduction.

The internet service of the FGF is extensively used. Approximately 40,000 visitors per month have been counted; of particular notice is the fact that the number of guests from foreign language countries did immensely increase. Compared to 1999, in 2000 the quota amounted to 55% of all inquiries. Thus, the internet site of the FGF is a huge success. The intranet as an internal information service only accessible to members, is currently under construction.

Mr. Bär concluded that in 2000 important steps have been taken made to further establish the FGF as a neutral representative of scientific knowledge. As such, the FGF already has gained high acceptance in the scientific world, at the jurisdictional level and from local authorities. The strategy of 'strict neutrality towards scientific work and knowledge as well as in public presentation' has proved as a successful strategy.

Last, Mr. Bär expressed his thanks to all board members and employees of the

FGF being active in workgroups and at the administrative office for their dedicated work.

New structure of public relations workgroup

In his report, Dr. Kuntze presented the activities of the public relations workgroup (AG-Ö) within the past year. The AG-Ö has developed a new structure in order to even better deal with the following three key areas of public relations:

- new media
- print
- science.

Responsible for these key areas are three corresponding sub-workgroups. The subgroup 'New Media' deals with the internet as a modern external tool to exchange information as well as the intranet as a medium for internal exchange of information. The subgroup 'Print' deals with designing and publishing print material. The emphasis lies on press releases, brochures, invitations as well as contributions to the FGF manual. The subgroup 'science' has the task to present the content of scientific publications and information on new technologies in a language also comprehensible for non-scientists. Lectures, features on current issues, definitions of scientific terms are made available to a broader public.

Dr. Kunze reported on the new FGF internet site momentarily being under construction. The aim is a better structuring and layout that will provide a highly user-friendly site. Information on the association, its activities, current research projects, research strategies and project commissioning practice are meant to provide the highest possible transparency. Further, a new FGF leaflet for public information has been designed on the occasion of this year's BEMS meeting. During the congress a side-event devoted to public information took

place. Lectures and a panel discussion presented the most important results of the congress. The Bayerischer Rundfunk (Bavarian Broadcasting) recorded the panel discussion.

On December 13th, 2000 a press background discussion took place at the quarters of the enterprise 'Rhode und Schwarz' in Munich dealing with the topic 'Portability of present scientific knowledge to new technologies'. Two guest speakers reported on the results of a preceding workshop on the topic 'Portability and demodulation' in Bad Münstereifel. The press representatives obtained information on scientists' positions towards this topic.

Further, Dr. Kuntze reported on media interest in the topic 'Electromagnetic environmental compatibility'. In August 2000 the major part of contributions with 1,300 press articles/features referred to following topics (corresponding to frequency)

- mobile phones
- base stations
- electrosmog and health.

In 2001, the FGF's well-established strategy of a rather discreet public relations work will be continued. Important projects will be the completion of the new internet site and of the FGF manual. Further, the AG-Ö plans to organise two press background discussions.

Research workgroup: Three projects finished

Dr. Kühn appreciated the successful activities of the research workgroup (AG-F) within the last year. All objectives were rather quickly achieved. In total, six AG-F sessions took place, plus a joint session of the AG-F and the AG-Ö. Currently, the AG-F consists of following subgroups:

- Biological effects of EMF in the cm/mm wavelength range
- Implants and body aids
- In vitro/in vivo

- Standardisation
- Knowledge-based literature data base (Wissensbasierte Literaturdatenbank [WBLDB])
- Aims of the AG-F.

In 2000 following projects were finished:

- Landstorfer/Hadeler/Lang: 'Effects of cm/mm waves on the human autonomic nervous system'
- Glaser: 'Impact of EMF on the calcium signalling system of human lymphocytes under special consideration of the electric field components'
- Aldenhoff/Hansen: 'Effects of electromagnetic fields on human sleep and daytime behavior'.

Though the last mentioned project has been finished, it will be revised for result verification. Especially in regard to the results of the workgroup Borbély (Switzerland) this seems to be reasonable. The study results of Alderhoff/Hansen and Landstorfer/Hadeler/Lang have been introduced to the public during FGF colloquia.

Currently there are following projects underway:

- Lerchl: 'Effects of weak electromagnetic high-frequency fields (GSM 900, DCS 1800, TETRA) on melatonin synthesis and reproductive functions of male Djungarian hamsters'
- Silny: 'Knowledge-based literature data base (WBLDB)'.

Ten projects are in preparation or involved in the process of commissioning.

As an important objective for 2001, Dr. Kühn mentioned the aim-orientated realisation of current research projects. Control of the milestones, costs and deadlines as well as result transfer are important components of the FGF-promoted research work. The realisation of the FGF's research agenda and the initiation of new projects will be the centre of attention. Above all, project commissioning practice as well as project management and result transfer

shall be optimised. In Kühn's opinion constant efforts are necessary to continuously extend the scientifically evaluated data-base of the 'WBLBD'.

Report on the administrative office: Four new full members, 51 members in total

The managing director of the FGF, Dr. Friedrich, reported on member development and member structure of the association, from the BEMS meeting and on the FGF's financial performance. At the end of 2000 the FGF had 51 members. Four new full members have joined the FGF. Philips cancelled its membership as of December 31st, 2001.

During the BEMS meeting in Munich several side-events took place.

- the special meeting of the American engineers' association IEEE
- the workshop of the U.S. Airforce
- the EBEA council meeting
- the COMAR meeting
 - the colloquium honoring Prof. Dr. Karl Brinkmann
- the special meeting of COST244 bis on 'Biological interaction mechanisms'.

Thanks to generous donations of totally 300,000 DM the FGF was able to maintain the planned budget of the BEMS. Mr. Friedrich expressed his deep-felt thanks to all donors.

At the end of 2000, the financial situation of the association was as follows: The total sum of takings consisting of member fees, sponsoring, interest and public funds amounted to 2.7 million DM; expenses amounted to approximately 2.2 million Mark. The surplus carried forward to the next financial year lay around 670,000 Mark. According to the managing director, the FGF has 'a healthy basis for funding new research projects'. In 2001, for research projects alone approximately 1.5 million Mark are available.

Members decide to quickly expand literature data-base; UMTS has priority

During the discussion on the reports the present members showed well-content with the FGF's achievements. Based upon a suggestion coming from the board of directors, the member assembly met the following decision: The number of currently available evaluated studies in the WBLDB will as soon as possible be extended from 600 to 1200. The obtainable information will be edited related to target groups, i.e. to inquiries coming from authorities, politics and the public. The member assembly will provide the necessary funding. The AG-F will commission Prof. Silny, RWTH Aachen, to provide a corresponding assessment of necessary funding and staff until march 2001.

Further, the board of directors decided that in future FGF research projects UMTS technology has high priority. The AG-F will examine to which extent a consideration of UMTS besides the GSM standard is possible within currently planned projects.

Cash audit without complaints

Mr. von Schilling presented the report of the cash auditors. Cash and books were looked into by Mr. Eibach (VIAG Interkom) and Mr. Garvert (Federal Ministry for Economy and Technology). They confirmed proper bookkeeping and use of funds according to the statutes. There were no complaints.

Board approved

The present members entitled to vote approved the board of directors by 14 votes, two abstentions. Thus, the members consented to the management course during the expiring financial year.

Election of the new board by unanimous vote

The member assembly elected a new board consisting of eight directors and eight deputy directors. The new board composes as follows:

for the group of net operators:

- Dr. Wolf Haas, D2 Vodaphone
Deputy: Dr. Ulrich Hermann, Swisscom
- Dr. Hans-Eckard Kürger, T-Mobil
Deputy: Joachim Claus, Dt. Telekom
- Dr. Karsten Menzel, E-Plus
Deputy: Wolfgang Krüger, VIAG Interkom

for the group of broadcasting corporations:

- Herbert Tillmann, Bayerischer Rundfunk
Deputy: Peter Pfirstinger, Bayerischer Rundfunk

for the industry:

- Eike Bär, Motorola
Deputy: Heinz Friedmann, Alcatel
- Dr. Christian Payer, Bosch
Deputy: Dr. Werner Irlner, Lucent Technologies
- Peter Zapf, Siemens
Deputy: Tor Marklund, Ericsson

for the group of authorities:

- MinDir Horst Ehrnsperger, BMWi
Deputy: Dittmar von Schilling, BMWi

As chairman of the board Mr. Eike Bär was elected, his deputy will be Dr. Wolf Haas. In behalf of the FGF Mr. Bär thanks Mr. Hummel, Dr. Lennartz and Mr. Ziermann who will leave the board for their valuable work.

The next member assembly will take place on January 24th, 2002 in Munich. ■