

# 10th Member As

## of the Research Association for Radio

**As every year, the Research Association for Radio Applications convened the Annual Main Assembly of members, this year for the 10th time. The conference took place in Munich hosted by the member Viag Interkom. The Chairman of the FGF Board reported on the activity of the Research Association for Radio Applications during the past fiscal year 2001.**

JAN. 24TH 2002

### Thanks to all active members and personnel

"It has been an interesting year characterised by much research activity. After all, the task of a research association is just to do research – and, in fact, we were quite successful in doing that. Our thirteen current projects stand for a wide range of work areas and ideas." With these words, the Chairman of the Research Association for Radio Applications, Mr Eike Bär, enthusiastically summed up the performance of the Research Association during the year under review. In his speech, he presented the foci of the association's activity pointing to particularly high levels of performance of the Research Association. "All this only was made possible by all active members of the association working together being hugely supported and backed up by their individual companies." For this, Mr Bär expressed his thanks to all members of the working groups and the staff at the administrative office. "Without the personal dedication and avid interest of all those involved it would have been impossible to cope with the ever-increasing workload." He expressed his respect for all those who dedicated a big part of their energy and even part of their spare time to the common goal.

### State of research

In his report, Mr Bär pointed to the fact that the planning and performance of research projects played an increased role in the efficiency with which the work was undertaken. As in previous years, Mr

Bär was able to refer to the fact that the Research Association for Radio Applications continued to put much weight on cooperation with international organisations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) or the European Commission, for example under the roof of the EU action COST 281. Mr Bär emphasized that research as such is the central purpose of the FGF, an area where it feels committed to competence, neutrality and scientific veracity of results: "In the future, the FGF will continue to act in line with the rule that it will commission independent, objective research committed to scientific principles with the aim to increase knowledge about the influence of electromagnetic fields on biological systems."

A new technology has arisen: there is intense discussion about a new mobile radio system (UMTS) – at least since the spectacular auctioning of licences by the Regulierungsbehörde für Telekommunikation und Post (RegTP; Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications and Posts). The FGF reacted to this new development by initiating and launching five research projects on the innovative UMTS technology. Here, basic research was required; the starting point was the question as to what electromagnetic fields with the then typical power strengths, signal and modulation types will be transmitted as a UMTS signal (air interface). To this end, a special FGF working group was established to take a closer look at this air interface and to define a generic UMTS signal for biological experiments. Based on this groundwork, subsequently five research projects

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## Applications on January 24th, 2002, in Munich

have been launched which will be reported on in the near future.

On the other side, the FGF Board is well aware that research now is at the crossroads. Research policies mainly pursued in the past – looking into effects of a well-defined, already-applied technology (for example GSM) for biological endpoints in order to be capable to engage in risk estimation and risk assessment – has to be added to by basic research on the impact of electromagnetic fields on humans and the environment, regardless of any existing or newly-introduced technology.

### Costs of research

In 2001, the Research Association for Radio Applications granted funds of about 1.5 million DM (0.76 million Euros) in total to third parties for research. That is an increase of funds of more than 30% compared to the year before. Apart from the presentation and discussion of newly-commissioned research projects and results, for example during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the Bioelectromagnetics Society (BEMS) in Minneapolis, and during the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Bioelectromagnetic Association (EBEA) in Helsinki, increasingly more effort was put into promoting the dialogue with institutions of the European Union. By participating in the COST action 281 (follow-up of COST 244 bis), the FGF feels it has found a good platform for further publicising and gaining additional recognition of its research efforts. By taking charge of the scientific secretariat, the FGF has done its share in

supporting this newly-launched scientific European project.

Two projects were finished during a scientific (the 10<sup>th</sup>) colloquium taking place on April 25, 2001, in Düsseldorf: the project of Professor Lerchl/Professor Hansen on the “Effects of weak radiofrequency EMF (at 383 MHz, 900 MHz and 1.8 GHz) on melatonin synthesis and reproductive functions of male Djungarian hamsters,” and the project of Dr. Buschmann/Professor Hansen/Professor Chaloupka on the “Effects of pulsed radiofrequency EMF (900 MHz, 217 Hz pulsed) on selected physiological parameters of rats: Experiments on effects of exposure to a second, higher power flux density (60 W/m<sup>2</sup>) during gestation on offspring.” During the colloquium, the studies were discussed together with external experts. The scientists were asked to submit their studies and results to peer-reviewed journals in order to enable other interested members of the scientific community to discuss and evaluate results.

Towards the end of the year, the second international FGF-workshop “Physical effects of pulsed RF fields at microscopic and molecular dimensions” took place in Dresden showing broad international participation. The results will be published as soon as the rapporteur report is available.

### Outlook on things to come

The year to come, 2002, will be a special year for the FGF since it will celebrate the tenth anniversary of its foundation – ten years during which the FGF has commissioned and looked after more than

eighty research projects. This has been made possible only by the considerable and lasting support of its members.

The celebration will take place on September 19 in Berlin at the Museum für Kommunikation (Museum for Communication), under the patronage of the Federal Minister of Economics, Dr. Werner Müller. During a symposium, scientists will give a survey of the developments and of the knowledge gained over the last ten years in the area of Electromagnetic Compatibility. In addition, a number of posters will provide information on some important work areas of the FGF and on to-date gained results.

In the current year, the FGF has a full agenda. Among other things, it will intensify cooperation with international and national institutions, decide on new research projects, and continue to inform the public via communication channels such as its internet services, journals and brochures. (For an in-detail report on the activities of the FGF please see the Annual Report 2001 on the web at [www.fgf.de](http://www.fgf.de).) The FGF welcomes the presently-discussed new support programs planned by the Federal Government and by network operators and, where requested, will provide expert support. ■

