

# The 11<sup>th</sup> Ann of the Forschung



At the 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, the chairman of the Forschungsgemeinschaft Funk, Mr. Eike Bär, announced the organization's leitmotif, "a research organization, must do research", he emphasized previous extensive research projects undertaken in 2001 and at the same time he focused on the numerous research projects that the FGF was responsible for initiating. At the 11<sup>th</sup> general meeting held on January 30, 2003 in Munich, 27 member representatives were proudly informed that this had been done consistently during the last year. The chairman informed the members – supported by the directors of the working groups – "Public Relations", Dr. Olaf Schulz;

"Research", Dr. Eberhard Kühn; and the managing director of the FGF, Dr. Gerd Friedrich – on the following topics in his annual report:

- the main focal points of projects
- profiling the Forschungsgemeinschaft Funk
- research plans
- Internet and Intranet services
- cooperation with international and national institutions

During the last ten years the FGF has promoted exhaustive scientific research dealing with the problem of biological effects posed by electromagnetic fields and health risks. In the past, the collecting of

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such data had to be a main priority of the FGF. Now is the time to compile EMCE research findings - and FGF supported research - because during the last two years the scope and the conditions of the research has changed. What this means is that support from public funds or organizations other than the Forschungsgemeinschaft Funk are commissioning research, so that it is no longer of utmost importance for the FGF to allocate research projects and funds. What especially speaks for this is the extensive funds allocated by network operators and the federal government for further research. Therefore, it seems that the evaluation and the circulation of existing research findings by the FGF would be more effective and goal oriented.

The work of the FGF will now focus more than it has been in the past - while working with many international scientists - on scientific reviews, colloquiums and seminars, which scientifically evaluate important questions and concerns. The results will then be published. Moreover, an expansion and an intensification of public debates along with all of the political implications has taken place. This makes it necessary to reassess the FGF's position in its research policy and public relations.

## **In 2002 a research project was completed**

Dr. Kühn evaluated the research done by the "Arbeitsgruppe Forschungs-

vorhaben" (AGF) in the past few years as successful. The sub-groups were able to deal with the work that arose during the project. The concept the AGF employs of forming sub-groups based on competency - in order to deal with specific subject areas - has proven to be worthwhile. Currently, the AGF is divided into the following sub-working groups:

- biological effects of EMF in the cm/mm wave-length range
- implants and other medical devices for the body
- in vitro/in vivo
- standardization
- knowledge based literature data bank (KBLDB)
- goal of the AGF.

In 2002 a project was completed "The effects of HF-EMF (GSM 900) on sleep quality and well being during the day-supplementary investigations", another project is in its final stages of evaluation and 8 other projects are in progress. In addition to these projects some highlights during the year were a scientific workshop on "Genetic and Cytogenetic aspects posed by HF-fields" and a seminar was held on "Statistical Methods". In order to have a clearer insight into how FGF projects are awarded and how third-party-funds are allocated, the FGF has presented, for anyone interested, this information clearly and comprehensibly on the Internet in a graph format.

To round off the year, the third international FGF-workshop, "Genetic and Cy-

togenetic Aspects of RF-Field Interaction", was held in Löwenstein with many international participants. The results will be published after the rapporteur's report is finished.

In order for research findings to gain more attention in scientific circles and with the public the FGF has strongly influenced those awarded FGF contracts to submit their results to "peer reviewed" journals, (i.e. in scientific journals, an evaluation of the research results is made before the paper is accepted for publication). This is extremely important since it enables other interested research groups to discuss and evaluate the results, which is urgently required if research results are to gain international acknowledgement. It is more of an established procedure in the English speaking world than in German speaking countries. This is a deficit which must be worked on.

One of the platforms used for presenting and discussing FGF commissioned research projects and their results within a scientific framework is, for instance, the 24<sup>th</sup> Bioelectromagnetics Society Conference (BEMS) in Quebec. We are also continuing our dialogue with EU institutions. In particular, in supporting the COST Action 281 (the follow-up of COST Action 244) the FGF sees a good basis for gaining recognition with regard to its research efforts. In taking over the position of scientific secretary for the COST 281 programme the FGF is providing a great deal of support for this European scientific project.