

A Brief Description of the Association

The development of the Association

- At the end of 2002 the FGF had 55 members.

- The association's financial situation at the end of 2002 was as follows:

membership fees, donations, interest proceeds, public funding, came to 1.45 million Euros. Expenditures were 1.74 million Euros, which created a deficit of 0.28 million Euros. This deficit was covered by reserve funds. The sum to be carried forward in the new financial year is 0.14 million Euros. For the year 2003 0.8 million Euros are available for research projects alone.

- Altogether the Forschungsgemeinschaft Funk allocated 0.96 million Euros in third-party-funds to scientific and research working groups, who were awarded contracts for research purposes. This is a 26% increase in the amount of financial support in contrast to last year.

- In addition to the 2 issues of the "FGF Newsletter" containing current reports on conferences and topics in detail, the journal "Edition Wissenschaft", has been revived after a pause of several years with the publication of the last 3 issues on the subjects of the "Blood Brain Barrier", "Melatonin- Hypothesis" and "Embryonic Development".

- The FGF's Internet homepage is visited about 40,000 times per month. Infoline and Intranet continue to be a major source of information for requests concerning the FGF.

- After an immense increase in media reports (press clippings in 2001) there has now been a decrease of 18%.

- The next general meeting will be held on January 29, 2004 in Bonn at T-Mobile.

- Further information can be found in the Annual Report 2002" and in the "Festschrift" published especially for the 10th anniversary of the FGF. (www.fgf.de).

The management board was discharged

The members present who were eligible to vote unanimously discharged the board for the previous year.

No cause for complaints with regard to the treasurer

Mr. Nobis presented the treasurer's report. The cash audit and the accounting records were done by Mr. Michaels (Deutsche Telekom AG) and Mr. Nobis (Marconi Communications). They concluded that proper accounting procedures were used and the money was spent according to the association's regulations. There was no cause for complaint.

The new board of directors were elected unanimously

The members of the board elected a new board of directors, which is made up of 8 members and 8 deputies. The new board of directors 2003/2004 is as follows:

For the group of network operators:

- Dr. Wolf Haas, D2 Vodaphone;

deputy: Dr. Ulrich Hermann, Swisscom

- Dr. Friedrich Lauer, T-Mobile;
deputy: Joachim Claus, Deutsche Telekom

- Dr. Karsten Menzel, E-Plus;
deputy: Wolfgang Krüger, O2

For the group of Service Providers

- Herbert Tillmann, Bayrischer Rundfunk;
deputy: Helwin Lesch, Bayrischer 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: Ralf Grafe, Nokia

For the group of Authorities

- MinDir Horst Ehrnsperger, BMWA;
deputy Dittmar von Schilling, BMWi

Mr. Eike Bär was re-elected as chairman of the board and Dr. Wolf Haas as deputy. In the name of the FGF, Mr. Bär thanked Mr. Marklund, Mr. Pfirstinger and Dr. Krüger, who are no longer on the board for all the work that they did.

Information provided by the FGF

The FGF's Internet sites are intensively used, records show that the site is accessed about 43,000 times per month. However this number on average fluctuates between 26,000 and 65,000 visits per month. Striking is that the number of visits to the site has clearly risen from countries whose language is not German. The Internet site of the FGF can be assessed as a success. The Intranet is for internal use only, i.e. informing members about information they need for their jobs. It has been very successful and its daily updates and reports are a great asset for our members in dealing with their daily work.

A new stand on public relations

The FGF has added to its regulations that it will promote informing the public about electromagnetic compatibility concerning the environment (EMCE) as well as promoting relevant discussions on the subject. In the past the FGF was accused of being biased. The FGF's reaction to this in 1999 was to show as much restraint as possible, i.e., only scientists will make statements concerning their own research and the FGF will remain impartial.

The FGF is regarded and highly accepted as a neutral trustee of scientific knowledge for scientific circles, for courts of law and for municipal authorities, and it hopes to further intensify its standing. The strategy of "strict neutrality" with regard to scientific research and knowledge and also with regard to the public has proven to be worthwhile. In the present situation it is however, essential that the FGF does something about the lack of public well-founded and objective information in the media. It is necessary that scientists, specialists and journalists cooperate in conveying to the public their own findings and other reputable research findings.

In particular the FGF has set the goal for itself that scientific publications, facts

and the unusual features concerning new technology will be presented so that it will easily be understood by laypersons. This will be done with lectures, information on specific topics, explanations, and terminology explanations whose contents will be more accessible and understandable by a wider public.

What the future holds

2003 will be the year of consolidation for the Forschungsgemeinschaft Funk, because unfortunately, the 10th anniversary of the FGF, which was celebrated last year, cannot be celebrated every year. So on September 19, 2002 in Berlin, at the Museum for Communication under the auspices of the Federal Ministry for Industry, scientists held a symposium on the EMCE research results obtained during the last ten years. In addition – posters were displayed representing the major research fields of the FGF and the results.

For the current year the FGF has a great deal planned. Cooperation with international and national institutions will be intensified, numerous projects will be continued and preparations for new research plans will be made, which will start in 2004. The FGF will extensively provide information to the public via the Internet, with journals and brochures. With regard to projects more and more specifications are being added, such as details and quality standards. We have found out that this type of project planning requires more work in the initial stages but it has proven to show positive results with regard to how the projects are conducted.

A complete report on the activities of the FGF can be found on the Internet (www.fgf.de) under Annual Report.

Summary

To sum up the following can be emphasized:

in the last 10 years the FGF while utilizing all of the possibilities at its disposal, was successful with its endeavours and

Planned Activities 2003

- research program for 2003 with new invitations to tender
- coordination among the WHO, EU, BfS, BauA with regard to research
- the publication of research results of FGF research funded with third-party-funds on the Internet and in "Edition Wissenschaft": more involvement with regard to publications in peer-reviewed journals.
- the presentation of research results of the BEMS 2003 and EBFA 2003
- participating as the national coordinator (together with BfS) for COST 281 and as scientific secretary for COST 281

Special Events

- a dialogue with the European Union pertaining to supporting special research programs within the framework of the 5th framework program (started in Feb. 1999, 5-year time period)
- participating in the 24th BEMS in Quebec City, Canada (Presentation of our own research results: 25)
- participating in the WHO-research project EMF: determining outstanding research and the harmonization of international standards

therefore substantially contributed to research being done and to providing information concerning the biological effects posed by mobile radio communications.

At the end of the session, Mr. Bär thanked the members of the board, the working groups, and the office of the FGF for their work and support.