

15 years FGF – 15 years as competent contact for Radio Applications

FGF (Forschungsgemeinschaft Funk) – Research Association for Radio Applications: the name stands for internationally recognized and reliable research and risk communication in the area of radio technologies. Its reputation is proof of achievements that could hardly have been anticipated back when the FGF was being established. Network operators, service providers, manufacturers, public authorities, the scientific community, and other organizations that are members of the FGF have been key contributors in the success story. All of them have worked toward the same goal: discussion of electromagnetic fields and their biological effects on humans and the environment. Since its founding in 1992, the FGF has provided financing in the amount of 10 million Euros to support research activities.

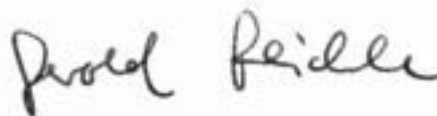
The FGF is respected throughout the world above all for its research and communication strategy. Its thematic focuses are broadly diversified. Individual projects are selected in line with the research goals of international groups of experts and, as a rule, awarded to scientific institutions. The projects must meet the standards demanded by the World Health Organization. Among other things, they must be appropriately documented and therefore also reproducible. The FGF collaborates closely with the WHO. Results are made accessible to the specialized public in channels such as peer reviewed journals, and they are attractively and understandably prepared for the general public through various activities including workshops and information events. Several times a year the FGF's Newsletter publishes additional information on topics related to all aspects of electromagnetic environmental compatibility. Furthermore, the FGF supports the development of a scientific data base that is generally available and may be accessed at <http://www.femu.de>.

The FGF has thus established itself as a contact partner for numerous national and international bodies and, with its expertise and range of tasks, it is

the only organization of its kind in Europe. It has convincingly shown that, according to all scientific findings, no negative effects on humans and the environment are to be expected from electromagnetic fields at frequencies below the valid threshold values. At the national level, the FGF has, among other things, helped to calm the originally very emotionally conducted discussion of the dangers of electromagnetic fields.

It might then be fair to ask, „mission accomplished?“ “Yes,“ if the question relates to our facilitation of significantly more objective communications among decision makers and the public at large. But “no,“ in terms of new radio technologies, whose potential impacts have to be identified anew. Nor will the political and scientific communities ultimately be able to escape from the virtually irresolvable psychological problem of many individuals who perceive a negative influence from the mere presence of radio masts.

The FGF will have to take account of this new set of problems by, for example, placing greater emphasis on providing more information and communication and less on “research for the sake of research.“ I wish the Research Association for Radio Applications – also on behalf of Federal Minister Michael Glos – good fortune in meeting these challenges, and I hope that the organization will continue to serve as a competent contact partner for issues involving electromagnetic environmental compatibility.



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