



Editorial

The Forschungsgemeinschaft Funk (FGF) celebrates a round anniversary, for the third time already: fifteen years ago, on September 1, 1992, the FGF was founded as a non-profit association. On the initiative of the Federal Ministry of Post and Telecommunication and the Minister, Dr. Christian Schwarz-Schilling, respectively, 16 institutions from the ranks of industry, network operators, associations, universities and the Ministry of Post brought the FGF into being with the aim to as far as possible objectify the debate over mobile radio and its possible biological effects – popularly called “electrosmog”.

The „network for research and information“ of the FGF is devoted to the biological effects of electromagnetic fields on humans and the environment. Looking back, the FGF has developed into an efficient institution financing research projects, but has also gained international reputation as a mediator of discussion and advice in the 15 years of its work. With its international workshops, jointly organized with the WHO, the European Union (COST action 281, EMF-NET) and other institutions like e.g. the Ministry of Environment of Baden-Württemberg and the Federal Office for Occupational Safety and Health, the FGF has created an internationally acknowledged platform for the exchange of data, facts and know-how on hot scientific topics.

In the information given to the public, media and politics, the FGF observes strict neutrality in the often very emotional discussion, i.e. it is committed only to scientific accurateness. Until today, the FGF has spent 10 million euros for research, i.e. for about 80 research projects. Among the members are numerous international companies, universities and authorities.

All this is a good reason for organizing a scientific symposium titled “15 years of FGF – Network for Research and Information“ on the occasion of its 15th anniversary, followed by a celebration in the evening. 15 years of the Forschungsgemeinschaft Funk e. V. also stands for a 15-year struggle of understanding the question in our statutes: “Are high-frequency electromagnetic fields below valid limits a danger for humans and/or the environment?“ Is it possible at all

to find an objective answer to this question? In view of the many influential factors that rationally, but also emotionally affect the public discussion, the FGF has tried to remain independent of convictions and opinions and to orient exclusively to scientifically founded arguments.

The quality of scientific assertions depends on many factors, e.g. the comparability and reproducibility of research results, including a solid statistical evaluation, etc. Through its work the FGF has contributed to the improvement of research activities in the field of EMC, especially by:

- providing guidelines for scientifically accurate exposure experiments
- the description and definition of generic GSM and UMTS signals for experimental use
- the active support of the research agendas of the WHO and the EU.

The FGF early on pointed out the need and relevance of interdisciplinary cooperation and has successfully optimised the quality of scientific research by diligent design, performance and evaluation of results. By developing, supporting and financing different information databases the FGF made scientifically verified, peer-reviewed research results available to research institutions.

In the field of information provision the FGF has established as a reliable and current source of scientific news and information; besides its Internet services there are its media, the “Newsletter“, “Edition Wissenschaft“ and “Infoline“. It is not only the news item itself, but the whole topic area that is highlighted by the provision of background knowledge in order to give interested laypersons as well the possibility to get comprehensive information about the state of art in the area of EMC.

“Research and Information“ – these are the two fundamental values that have guided the FGF in the past 15 years!

In this festschrift in the form of a special edition of the Newsletter we want to collect the information of the day, beginning with the contributions to the symposium up to the greeting addresses on occasion of this celebratory event to remember them.