

## **BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE “GERMAN MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATION RESEARCH PROGRAMME”**

The German Mobile Telecommunication Research Programme (DMF) will be conducted from 2002 to 2007 within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) under the auspices of the Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS).

The Programme is funded with €17 million, equally shared by the Federal Ministry for the Environment and the network operators. The Programme supports the WHO's international EMF project and seeks to increase the amount of data required for risk assessment.

Research is focused on:

- mechanisms of action of high frequency fields,
- effects on animals and humans,
- determination of the exposure,
- risk communication.

### **I. Scientific Management of the DMF**

The Programme is carried out according to the BMU operation procedure Environmental Research Plan. A transparent procedure and independent research are of special importance. The fundamental procedure is regulated as follows:

#### **Determination of the scope of research required and development of the Programme**

BfS has determined the scope of knowledge still needed in order to reevaluate the health risks caused by the high frequency electromagnetic fields of mobile communication, having considered the relevant national and international research programmes and the specified time and financial limits for the Research Programme. On this basis, BfS has drawn up a draft of a research programme.

The BfS draft was submitted to a comprehensive consultation process, comprising an advisory vote of the SSK (Radiation Protection Commission), public consultation on the internet and a final public discussion in an expert workshop in September 2003.

The resulting comments and votes were evaluated by BfS and were taken into account for the development of the final programme draft and budgeting of the different research projects.

#### **Conduct of the Programme**

The Research Programme is conducted independently by BfS according to the regulations of the operation procedure Environmental Research Plan (UFO-Plan). BfS will improve communication with the applicants. BfS will in particular acknowledge receipt of expressions of interest and will inform applicants if their proposals are not admitted. As far as this is permissible under the German

regulations for public service contracts VOL/A, receipt of applications is acknowledged immediately, the applicants will be notified if processing is delayed, and, on completion of the awarding process, the applicants whose proposals have not been admitted will be given notice including a short statement on the rejection of their application. The SSK will be regularly informed of the contents and progress of the Programme and will be granted the right to comment on certain projects prior to awarding. Furthermore, the SSK will submit recommendations on the further development of the Programme.

### **Expert workshops**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> BfS expert workshop was held on 25 September 2003. The objective was a final discussion of the drafted research programme and the associated statements. Compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> BfS expert workshop, a greater number of participants was allowed in order to ensure broad public participation.

Another public expert workshop, bringing together the researchers involved and external scientists, will be held in autumn 2004. Such workshops shall enable the researchers to assess the knowledge gained so far from their own research projects against the background of results from international projects so that some of them may find it useful to adapt their next steps on the basis of the discussion results.

After conclusion of the projects in 2007, a public meeting will take place in order to allow a final discussion of the results.

### **Project meetings**

Project meetings with the researchers involved will be carried out as required. The necessary financial means are covered by each project budget.

## **II. Transparency and Public Relations**

### **Internet portal**

BfS has made available to the public an internet portal for the Research Programme ([www.emf-forschungsprogramm.de](http://www.emf-forschungsprogramm.de)). The internet portal needs to be coordinated with the corresponding BfS and BMU websites and the femu data base; first talks have taken place.

The BfS internet portal comprises:

- Description of the entire Programme.
- Overview of the research projects within the framework of the Programme (topic, summary description, term (each item in English and German), interim reports in their current version (Programme report), and, on conclusion of the projects, final reports (in German) and abstracts in English and German.
- Overview of the results of national and international research projects on the relevant areas of research, including BfS assessments.

BfS shall be responsible for website maintenance.

The internet portal was also used for the public consultation on the Research Programme. In order to ensure the required level of transparency, the minutes of the colloquia, meeting reports and other scientific events accompanying the Programme are published on the internet portal. BfS plans to develop a literature data base, which will be made available to an interested general public.

### **III. Round Table on the “German Mobile Communication Research Programme”**

A Round Table (RTDMF) accompanying the German Mobile Communication Research Programme will be initiated at BfS in order to enable societal groups and institutions to gain information on the latest developments of the Programme and to make suggestions for further action from their point of view. The Round Table is in particular supposed to ensure transparency and to assist BfS with the communication of the Programme, its objectives and results and the elaboration of concepts relating to the publication of the research results.

Representatives from the following institutions are allowed to take part in the RTDMF:

- German Commission on Radiation Safety (SSK),
- Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz (BUND),
- network operators,
- Mobile Telecommunication Information Centre (IZMF),
- consumer centres,
- German Medical Association,
- Länderausschuss für Immissionsschutz,
- Research Association for Radio Applications,
- Office of Technology Assessment at the German Parliament (TAB),
- one media representative