

General research activities in France

ELF

Projects funded by EDF-RTE:¹

- Modelling of the currents induced in the head and thorax in electricians who work on the lines (Insa, Lyon)
- Effects of ELF magnetic fields on the 5-HT_{1B} serotonin receptor (IMS, University of Bordeaux),
- Collaboration with LHRI, Hydro-Québec and health Canada in an investigation on volunteers exposed at 1.8 mT, and later to MRI fields,
- Assessment of 50-Hz magnetic field exposure levels of the French population (1000 adults and 1000 children) (Supélec, Gif sur Yvette).
- Analysis of the distribution of leukaemia as a function of location high-voltage equipment (e.g. power lines) (National registry, Inserm)
- EMC study on pacemakers including at workplace (LIEN, University of Nancy).

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RF

S&R Foundation: The main source of research funding in the RF range (and not only for mobile telephony) is the “Santé et Radiofréquences” foundation² (Health and RF).

The foundation “Health & RF” is funding research with priorities in line with the latest WHO RF recommendations.

In the first two calls for proposals the main axes were:

- Impact of RF exposure on children
- RF exposure assessment in particular related to new usage and emerging technologies
- Risk perception and involvement of shareholders

A third call for proposals was open in April 2007 on sociological issues.

Following the first call for proposal 6 projects are ongoing. Five more projects have been selected in the second call. www.sante-radiofréquences.org/fileadmin/templates/pdf/Liste_15_projets.pdf

In vitro studies

- Effects of RF exposure on microtubule organization. *INSERM & CEA, Grenoble.*
- Karyotype of Human amniocytes exposed to GSM signals. *Medical School, University of Limoges.*
- Genomic study of exposure of human cells. *ERTAC, University of Clermont-Ferrand.*
- Cellular stress and millimetre waves. *CNRS, University of Rennes.*
- Co-genotoxicity of GSM1800 signals in human cells. *CRSSA, Grenoble,*
- Effects of low-level RF exposure on an in-vitro model of the blood-brain barrier. *VigiCell - Villejuif.*

Animal studies in particular related to children.

- Effects on RFR on memory and attention in rats. *INERIS, Verneuil en Halatte.*
- Effects of RF exposure on the young animals. *IMS, University of Bordeaux.*
- Effects of the GSM1800 signal on the immature CNS. *INSERM U796, Paris.*

Exposure assessment

- Occupational exposure to EMF. *Medical School. University of Lyon.*

Dosimetry

- Dosimetry of the foetus. *LTCl, ENST, Paris.*
- Dosimetry of the exposure system used in the Franco-Russian project. *XLIM, Limoges.*

Epidemiology

- Exposure assessment related to the Interphone study. *IARC, Lyon.*

Sociology

¹ Electricité de France, Réseau de transport de l'électricité

² www.sante-radiofréquences.org/

- Dialogue, information, and social representations. *Centre de Sociologie des Organisations, CNRS, Paris*

ACI³: The work of the seven research groups involved in this research programmes has now ended and the results are being published.

AFSSET⁴: Among the projects selected by this agency, the exposure assessment of a cross section of the population has been performed by two teams of epidemiologists in Besançon and Lyon (IARC) using individual exposimeters. Validation of the equipment was done by Ineris. A new call for proposal is now out.

Others: there are a few ongoing research projects funded by the French operators and by foreign organisations such as the BfS in Germany.

Information for the general public

The ministry of Health has updated its leaflet on mobile telephone and health:

www.sante.gouv.fr/hm/dossiers/telephon_mobil/depliant_2007.pdf

The "Heath & RF" Foundation has also the mission to define, promote and fund programmes to bring information to the public and to the workers. It is organizing a "blue bus" that will travel through France to inform people about the reality of the development of mobile telephony and the health aspects.

It has also available on its website fact sheets and Q&A at www.sante-radiofrequences.org

The foundation is organizing an open scientific meeting on 24-25 October in Paris:

www.sante-radiofrequences.org/index.php?id=146

Regulations

August-2006 decree: definition of the conditions under which the mayor is informed about the deployment of new equipment on its municipality, so that mayors have all information about all radioelectric equipment in the area.

August-2006 decree: modalities of EMF measurements and right given to the local prefect to ask for new measurements of base stations to be paid for by operators.

³ « Actions Concertées Incitatives »: programme of the French Research Ministry
www.recherche.gouv.fr/recherche/fns/radiotelmobil.htm

⁴ Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire de l'Environnement et du Travail www.afsset.fr/