

Factsheet to Press Conference "Swiss UMTS Study" on June 06, 2006

## Context of Swiss UMTS Study

In fall 2003, the so-called "TNO Study" was published. Its results have been controversially discussed in the scientific community. Against that background, the Swiss Research Foundation on Mobile Communication (FSM) decided to set up a confirmatory study. By the end of 2003 funding activities started. In September 2004 the "Swiss UMTS Study" on effects of UMTS radiation on well-being and cognitive functions was officially launched.

### **Independence of research and results guaranteed by contract**

In Mai 2004 the research consortium – headed by PD Dr. Peter Achermann, University of Zurich – submitted the project proposal of the Swiss UMTS Study to the FSM for scientific evaluation. The quality of the proposal was rated as "high", and the researchers were committed to perform the research. Neither the FSM nor the sponsors were notified about results until their acceptance in a peer-reviewed journal. The project followed strict scientific goals and was conducted with complete independence from both FSM and sponsors.

The Swiss UMTS Study is a project of the Swiss Research Foundation on Mobile Communication (FSM) conducted by Peter Achermann (University of Zurich), Niels Kuster (IT'IS Foundation) and Martin Rösli (University of Berne). It is neither an "ETH Project" nor a "SFOPH Study", as sometimes erroneously reported in the press. The FSM is an independent, non-profit foundation approved by the Swiss Federal Supervisory Board of Foundations, and is located at ETH Zurich.

Press Release



Funding rules and processes of the FSM are similar to those of the Swiss National Science Foundation: project proposals are evaluated by an independent expert committee (the membership list of the Scientific Committee can be found on the FSM website), and scientific quality is key. The foundation sponsors have no influence whatsoever on both the evaluation process and the project work. Applicants have to sign a contract with the obligation to publish the results of the funded research. All rights for publications and patents are with the researchers.

### **Funding by public authorities and industry**

Due to its limited budget, the FSM had to acquire the funds for the Swiss UMTS Study from external sources. Funding arrangements could be finalised in summer 2004 with the three Swiss Federal Offices of Public Health SFOPH, Communication OFCOM, Environment FOEN; and the Swiss Communication Commission ComCom; with the four Dutch Ministries of Economic Affairs EZ, Health, Welfare and Sport VWS, Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment VROM, Social Affairs and Employment SZW; and with the three Swiss providers Orange, sunrise and Swisscom Mobile. 60% of the overall costs of 723'000 Swiss Francs (485'000€) were contributed by public authorities, 40% by industry.

### **For information on FSM and on the study:**

[www.mobile-research.ethz.ch/english/index\\_e.htm](http://www.mobile-research.ethz.ch/english/index_e.htm)

### **For information on scientific knowledge on EMF and health:**

[www.umwelt-schweiz.ch/buwal/de/fachgebiete/fg\\_nis/news/2003-04-14-00385/index.html](http://www.umwelt-schweiz.ch/buwal/de/fachgebiete/fg_nis/news/2003-04-14-00385/index.html)

[www.emf-risiko.de/projekte/ergeb\\_bewlit\\_e.html](http://www.emf-risiko.de/projekte/ergeb_bewlit_e.html)

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