



Guidelines for DT's EMF Research-Support

Ever since mobile communications technology was first introduced, there has been much debate at scientific, societal and political level on whether electromagnetic fields below the maximum permissible level can affect human health. The current status of scientific research plays a key role in answering this question.

An active analysis of research into mobile communications and health is therefore a central activity accompanying the further development of mobile communications technology for Deutsche Telekom. Deutsche Telekom's commitment to scientific research encompasses two areas: firstly, our experts aim to hold regular discussions on the current status of research with scientific institutions and researchers. Secondly, Deutsche Telekom directly and indirectly provides necessary funding for research projects aimed at answering scientific questions on the topic of mobile communications and health.

The involvement of industry in research and science can be viewed critically, particularly when controversial health topics are in the spotlight. To avoid this, we stick to the recommendations set out by the World Health Organization and we have also developed our own guiding principles. We base our research and science activities on these. We also communicate publicly about our activities. Our guiding principles are: funding targeted research, scientific excellence, transparency, objectivity and comprehensibility.

Guiding principles

1. Funding targeted research

The scientific community has already acquired very broad knowledge of the subject of mobile communications and health. Renowned international panels of experts have confirmed the validity of the maximum permissible levels and therefore established that it is safe to use mobile communications technologies. However, from Deutsche Telekom's perspective, further research in this area is both useful and important, not least because mobile communications technology is constantly evolving and research methods also change. We therefore fund targeted research that is based on the World Health Organization's research agenda.

2. Scientific excellence

We fund research projects that are committed to scientific excellence and that are recognized as such. Reliable and meaningful results can only be obtained when technical, methodical and ethical scientific standards are met. These include the quality criteria and standards set out for research by the World Health Organization.

3. Transparency

All reports and results for research projects that are commissioned directly or indirectly by Deutsche Telekom are publicly available and are also made available for further scientific discussion.

4. Objectivity

Deutsche Telekom categorically does not analyze any scientific results or studies itself. Our actions are instead based on the scientific findings of recognized panels of experts that are produced in line with transparent procedures. This enables us to ensure that the interpretation and evaluation of current scientific results or studies take place independently of special interests or values and that this is carried out impartially based on scientific criteria.

5. Comprehensibility

Open access to clear, factually correct information is an essential prerequisite for objective and constructive debate on the topic of mobile communications and health. It is therefore important to us that comprehensible information is available to citizens and users of mobile communications technology. This enables each individual to carry out their own personal risk assessment and form an opinion based on this. To ensure that this is possible, we are constantly working on improving our communication on this sensitive topic.