



Our Commitment to our customers

In support of independent research into the possible health effects of RF fields, Vodafone has committed more than 9 million Euros to various research programmes and projects already completed or currently underway or to be undertaken between 1999 and 2007.

The Department of Communications and Computer Engineering at the University of Malta in association with Vodafone Malta, operates **Progett Gardjola** – an initiative to inform the general public about Radio Frequency Radiation.

Through **Progett Gardjola**, the public is able to monitor radio Frequency (RF) radiation levels in different localities in Malta and Gozo in quasi-real time. Vodafone has allocated 10 electro-magnetic radiation probes to be used in this project. Electro-magnetic radiation probes measure radio frequency fields levels emitted within the 100kHz – 3 GHz range including TV, radio and GSM transmissions. These probes have been installed in different locations across the Maltese Islands.

The readings from each probe is downloaded daily to the web server situated at the University of Malta, and then displayed on the Communications and Computer Engineering Department's website – <http://gardjola.eng.um.edu.mt/emr/>. These readings are reproduced in graphs. In each graph one can view the emission readings for the selected probe as well as the maximum allowable emission levels set by ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection) which have been adopted by the Maltese authorities.



“The mobile phone brings people together and connects communities in a way that has never been possible until now. Vodafone believes responsible usage of mobile technology can be a force for good in society”

Arun Sarin, Vodafone Chief Executive

Designed and Produced by BFC - 35489-1/02004

Mobile phone base stations and health



To find out more about Vodafone's commitment to corporate responsibility, visit www.vodafone.com/responsability



Mobile phones have become a part of our everyday lives, with more than a billion people connected by mobiles today.

Such a rapid growth in demand for mobile communication has meant an increase in the number of mobile phone base stations to provide more people with mobile phone coverage. While most people welcome more mobile phone coverage, we recognise that some people are concerned about the possible health effects of base stations and we're committed to addressing these concerns.



Health concerns

Some people have concerns that the energy carried by RF signals affects their health. Vodafone is committed to ensuring that people are better informed about mobile phone base stations and health. The energy carried by RF signals is the same as that used in television, radio, walkie-talkie and baby listening devices.



When the energy carried out by RF signals is absorbed into the body above a certain level it can cause heating effects. International guidelines have been developed to ensure that this does not happen.

At Vodafone we operate well within these guidelines, using the minimum levels of power necessary for a mobile phone to communicate with the base station.

Scientific research

For several decades scientists have studied the effects of the energy carried by the RF fields used for radio and mobile communications. Independent expert reviews of these studies conclude that absorption of the energy from mobile phones and base stations poses no threat to human health, as long as the phones and base stations are operated within international guidelines.

The World Health Organisation says there is no need for any special precautions when using mobile phones. But it says there are "gaps" in scientific knowledge that require further research to make a better assessment to health risks.

WHO advises that if individuals are concerned, they may choose to limit their own or their children's exposure to energy from mobile phones by keeping calls short or using a hands-free kit to distance the phone from the head and the body. More information on mobile phones and health can be found at the WHO website: www.who.int

How mobile phone base stations work

Whenever a mobile phone call is made, the phone uses radio frequency (RF) fields to communicate with a network of low-powered radio transceivers called base stations.

Each base station consists of electronic radio equipment and some antennas that use RF fields to communicate with mobile phones over a small area known as a cell. A cell can vary in size from a few hundred metres to several kilometres.

The base station network is linked to public telephone systems so that mobile phone calls can be made to other networks, in Malta and other countries.

In line with Vodafone's commitment to communities and the environment, we try to locate most of our base stations on buildings or existing structures, as opposed to stand-alone masts. We make it a priority to try to locate new base stations in a way that minimises inconvenience to residents.

