



MEDIA STATEMENT
ISSUED BY SACTA FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SACTA acknowledges that there are some concerns about radiofrequency fields (RF) from cellphones and base stations.

Based on current scientific review the conclusion drawn by scientists around the world is that there are no known adverse health effects for adults and children provided that the RF exposure is below recommended levels set by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Cellphone and base stations are designed and operate so that people are not exposed above these guideline levels.

International standards-setting organisations such as the ICNIRP, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and government agencies are continuously monitoring the latest scientific findings to determine whether changes in safety limits are needed to protect human health.

As responsible corporate citizens, SACTA and its members take the safety of the people and the environment in which they operate very seriously and always acts within the required internationally accepted safety practices and national regulations when setting up base stations.

Below please find additional points on research conducted internationally:

* More than 30 authoritative expert scientific reviews undertaken around the world, during the past seven years have not found adverse health effects for adults or children caused by mobile telephony operating within the ICNIRP radio frequency public exposure guidelines.

* As far as shields are concerned the WHO stated in a fact sheet published in 2000; "Scientific evidence does not indicate any need for RF-absorbing covers or other "absorbing devices" on mobile phones. They cannot be justified on health grounds and the effectiveness of many such devices in reducing RF exposure is unproven."

* On actions the public may wish to take to reduce their exposure to radio waves the WHO goes on to state; "Present scientific information does not indicate the need for any special precautions for use of mobile phones. If individuals are concerned, they might choose to limit their own or their children's RF exposure by limiting the length of calls, or using "hands-free" devices to keep mobile phones away from the head and body."

* A 13-country study on head and neck tumours, the INTERPHONE project, coordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is already underway. As these diseases are rare, large numbers of subjects are needed for accuracy.

* Cancer Research UK states; "Brain tumours are relatively rare; in the UK, just over 4,200 people are diagnosed with a brain tumour each year. Overall, more brain tumours are diagnosed than in the past. But this is mostly because we are living longer and brain tumours are more common in older people.

In relation to the specific research of Dr Vini Khurana SACTA concurs with the UK Association of Mobile Operators in that his findings are a discussion of selective scientific literature and does not present a peer-reviewed new finding.

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ABOUT SACTA:

- SACTA is an independent non-profit association representing the mobile cellular public switched and fixed mobile telecommunications industry within South Africa.
 - More information and contact details can be obtained from www.sacta.co.za.
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