

A Telecom strategy

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When I was working at Ericsson as Environmental Manager for the two largest business areas, Fixed and Mobile Systems, I had to consider all environmental aspects of our work. With the exception for one: the influence from electromagnetic radiation. This specific area was dealt with by specially appointed experts who always told the management what they wanted to hear. Radiation was harmless to the health.

But as times go by, the facts tend to pile up. The experts are no idiots and the top management isn't either. All the thousands of billions of dollars buried under the base station masts have to be used as long as possible. A strategy needs to be followed and closely adhered to. And here is what might be the strategy:

1. The top management needs a special group of experts that always can be trusted to tell the right things. Mobile phones are perfectly safe.
2. Only one national authority should have the right to say anything about the possible health risks of mobile phones and transmitting systems. This authority is the Radiation Safety Authority (SSM). All other authorities are obliged to refer to what SSM says and cannot publish their own opinions on the matter.
3. The management of SSM should rely on the opinion from a special group of experts that has been selected because they are known to say the right things. Reports that indicate problems are never included in their summary reviews. Mobile phones are safe.
4. This special group of experts should preferably be members of the ICNIRP organization. This organization is funded by the mobile phone industry and has become a very important tool since it has defined "safety levels" for radiation so high that they never pose any problems for the mobile phone industry. Mobile phones are safe.
5. The telecom industry is meanwhile developing new phone systems to be prepared when it becomes obvious that the old mobile phones and health did not match quite as well as thought. Patents for output power limiting and IR/UV systems are filed, but kept in the safe as long as the authorities don't ask for better and safer products. Mobile phones are safe.
6. In order to assure a long available time for developing and introduction of new mobile phone systems it is important to support health study projects that run for decades before any conclusions can be drawn. One example is the Interphone study; another is the COSMOS study. If these studies ever show any health implication, we will by then in any case have new and better mobile systems up and running. Meanwhile, mobile phones are safe.
7. When the development of the new mobile phone generation using IR/UV is complete it will be important to highlight the benefits of this system also from a health point of view. This will help marketing of the new system and the sales of another 6 billion phones. The expert group of SSM will now be allowed to issue a report telling that health precautions alert a change to the new system. But the new mobile phone system will be perfectly safe.

Note. This is not based on any written strategy known to me, but seems to fit well into what we see.