



THE MUNICIPALITY OF CATANIA AND OMNITEL PRESENT CASSIOPEA, THE FIRST ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD MONITORING PROJECT

Catania, 21 July 2000 - Omnitel and the Municipality of Catania have promoted and developed in association with Wavetek Wandel Goltermann, Cassiopea - the world's first permanent project for electromagnetic field monitoring.

Cassiopea sets out to give a clear, reliable and transparent reply to questions raised by citizens on the electromagnetic field values recorded in urban areas as regards their compliance with the levels laid down by law.

Omnitel's objective is to give full account of its operations in compliance with the law regulating electromagnetic emissions, while the common objective of the Catania City Council and Omnitel is to safeguard the environment and the health of citizens. For these reasons they have jointly implemented Cassiopea: an innovative and adventurous service, and the first in the world, for the measurement of electromagnetic fields in the clearest manner possible.

15 monitoring stations have been sited in areas of high pedestrian density or near to private and public buildings; for example the public gardens of Villa Bellini in the town centre, Piazza Europa, Parco Falcone and the Garibaldi public hospital have been chosen as sites for continuous electromagnetic field monitoring.

The values measured are sent via Omnitel's GSM network to a centre run by the municipality, which, in its turn, will divulge them to the public through the usual channels of information (the internet, press, televideo, etc.).

"The Cassiopea project, - commented the Mayor of Catania, Umberto Scapagnini - is important because it offers citizens the chance of safeguarding their health on the basis of criteria established by law, but without having to give up such highly useful instruments as cellular telephones which can improve the quality of our life and work. Moreover, Cassiopea, will enable us to monitor the presence of the electromagnetic waves generated not by mobile telephone base stations but, for example, by high-voltage transmission lines or by the so-called micro-climate, i.e. all the emissions produced by domestic appliances. I am, therefore, very pleased not only as mayor but also as a doctor that such a project has been introduced for the first time in Catania."

"To be informed in a wholly transparent manner, that a law is being correctly observed is the right of every citizen and we are very proud to be the first, in our sector, to have provided a concrete example of how to comply with the law. - declared Vittorio Colao, CEO of Omnitel - Our next objective is to make this model exportable to other cities"

The design and the manufacture of the monitoring stations is the work of Wavetek Wandel Goltermann, a leading company in the field of telecommunication service solutions, which in response to Omnitel's request has put its know how and experience in the field at the project's disposal.

Cassiopea has also been made possible thanks to the valuable assistance of the University of

Catania, which is cooperating with Omnitel and the Municipality of Catania in the implementation of the project and the definition of the scientific criteria for the installation of the structures.