The main task of DFVLR is applied research mainly in the aerospace field, supplied by work in non-nuclear energy and some other interesting technologies, but the latter on a small scale. DFVLR is a member of a group of thirteen research laboratories, ranging in size from 4500 employees to approximately 250 The tasks of these laboratories are quite different, as can be seen from this slide (3). Part of them is doing basic research, as distant from any practical application as sub-nuclear particle research usually is; others like DFVLR work very close to industrial needs, in certain aspects even being similar to an "expanded laboratory desk" of industry. Yet, whenever transfer of research and development results is involved, all of them have developed recently very similar ways. Hence, DFVLR may stand as a sample for the more general case of these laboratories.

I am responsible for the transfer of research and development results to industry from the German Aerospace Research and Development Establishment, DFVLR.

The common characteristics of these "national" laboratories are:

- They work on major, long term tasks, which typically require either permanent staff and/or large facilities;

- their tasks are set in agreement with the nations needs, as defined by the appropriate departments, in Germany mostly the department of Research and Technology;

- they receive public funding for the major part of their work or for all of it;

- they stay clearly in a stage of development in which market success is still so far away that industry would not occupy yet their own laboraties with this work.

Comparing them with other research and development units one finds two groups:

One group which comprises Nuclear Research at Karlsruhe and at Jülich, GKSS Center near Hamburg, Mathematics and Data Processing Research near Bonn, Radiation and Environment Research near Munich and German Aerospace, works predominantely on projects close to application and hence has considerably more contact with industrial enterprises than the second group, whose scope of work is orientated more towards basic, general knowledge. Yet, the second group, when coming into contact with industry, has found the same ways to be efficient as the first group.