

Horst Warncke



Horst Warncke studied medical technology in Hamburg from 1979 to 1983. Since 1984 he has been the head of Audiology at Oticon GmbH in Hamburg. Private life: family man (two sons), grandpa, amateur musician. He also contributes to the Technical Commission of the German Association of the Hearing Instruments Industry and is a member of the advisory board of the German Society of Audiology (DGA) and the hearing aid standards committee

Hearing Systems go online - from Telecoil to Internet

When hearing systems reach their limits, people think about assistive devices. Especially people with severe hearing loss know of this difficulty. In the past, the telecoil, along with the microphone, was the most important solution to feed signals into hearing systems. In addition, there was the galvanic (wired) audio shoe, a "socket" to connect, for example, to FM-systems. Furthermore, there were various special solutions which all had to be additionally purchased and operated, such as text telephones, fax machines, or flashing lights.

Now, thanks to new power saving radio frequency signals in the 2,4 GHz band, various supportive operations can be employed either directly in the hearing system or with the help of a coupled smartphone.

This combination allows for diverse improvements – often at no additional cost, because the required app is offered free of charge. Utilizing specific apps, as for example for Tinnitus, enables users of a hearing system to build their desired system. This can be used for phone calls, watching TV, monitoring of batteries for example – making daily life more convenient.

The lecture provides a brief overview of the exciting possibilities of today's hearing systems. A small glimpse into the future rounds out the presentation.