

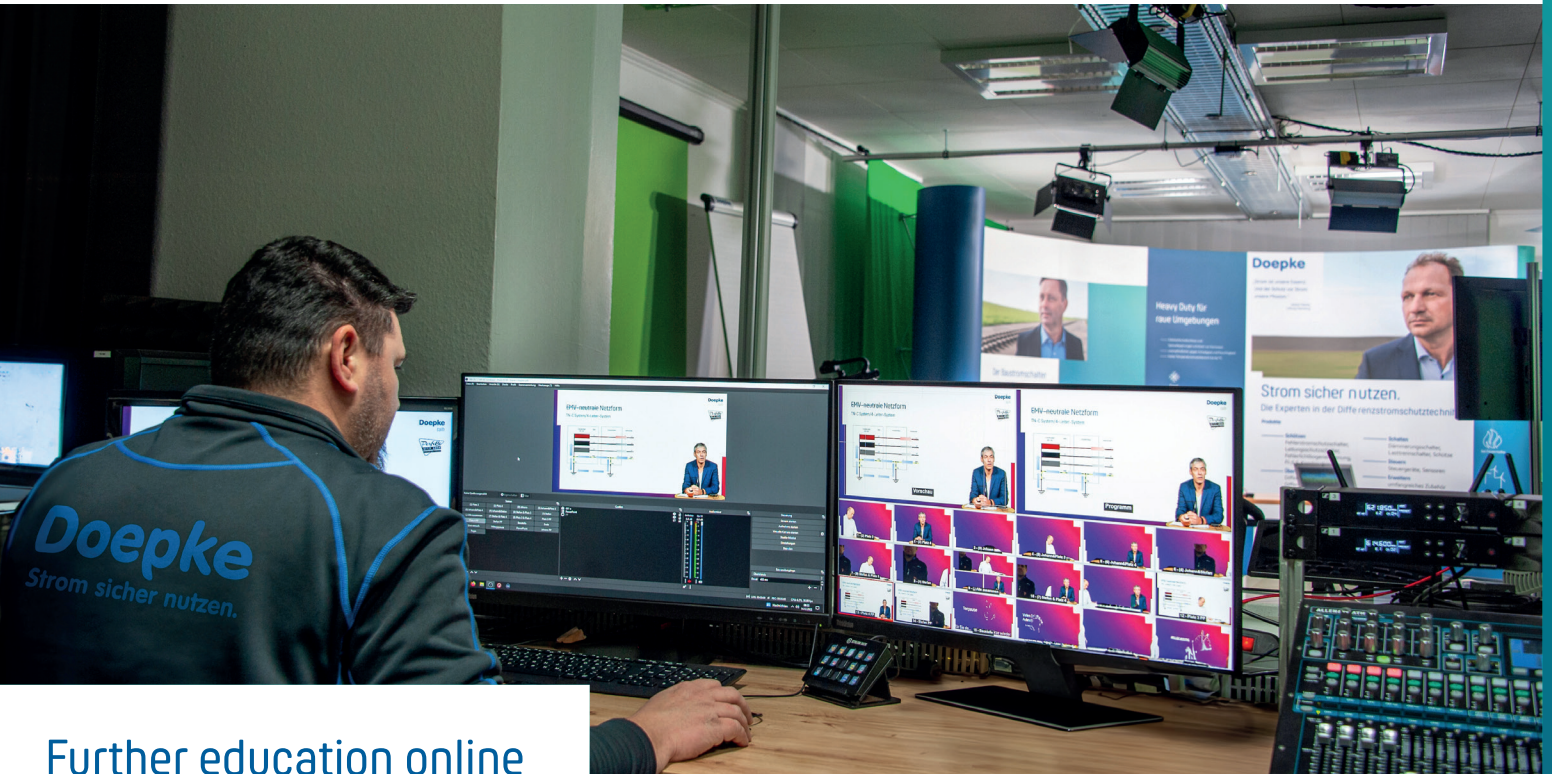
# DIZ Doepke-Info-Zeitung

The free customer newsletter from Doepke Schaltgeräte GmbH



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## Further education online

### Doepke Academy in Autumn

Doepke's online training programme, Doepke Academy, has now been running for three years. It was set up in 2020, when all in-person events had to be postponed due to the pandemic, as an alternative to the company's extensive training programme. Since then, Doepke Academy has established itself in its own right as a knowledge sharing platform.

Trade fairs and other training events have now mostly returned to their usual format. Doepke's field sales force is once again on the road throughout Germany, sharing knowledge and raising awareness of the issues around residual current protection.

At the same time, interest in online events remains high. In light of this, Doepke will be continuing its online seminar series throughout the second half of 2023. Free training sessions are held roughly once a month on a variety of subjects. The sessions always include a section for answering attendees' questions, which they can post in the chat during the seminar.

This interactive element of the seminars benefits everyone involved. Seminar participants have their questions answered by experts and the Doepke team can gather information and inspiration directly from the market.

Doepke Academy is no longer just an alternative to Doepke's training offering, but an essential part of it.



For upcoming dates, please check [akademie.doepke.de](https://akademie.doepke.de).



## Risk management in the industry

### Event with Doepke e.Guard

Halfway through the year, Germany's largest independent insurance broker, Hamburg-based Funk Gruppe, invited key decision-makers from various sectors of industry to an information event at Center Smart Services (part of the RWTH Aachen Campus). The event was entitled 'Rheinland goes Riskmanagement' and focused on risk management, damage prevention using new technologies and insurance in Industry 4.0. Alongside subscription models for the production industry and mechanical engineering, there was also a look at quantum computing, both as a vision and in terms of some initial applications, although the main focus was predictive maintenance via intelligent residual current monitoring with Doepke e.Guard. Andreas Fries, who is responsible for Industrial Sales Promotion

South, and Werner Weihs-Sedivy, founder and CEO of our partner twingz, gave a technical introduction to the subject of e.Guard in their keynote speech. Participants were then given a tour of the Demonstration Factory Aachen (DFA), giving them the chance to experience e.Guard first hand. There are three different applications on display in the DFA, which use wireless technology to demonstrate our e.Guard system: a laser cutting machine, mobile welding equipment and an air compressor. Residual currents are simulated with a cable crimping machine and a music system, so that visitors can see how e.Guard is used to measure and visualise this in real time. The preventative safety that the e.Guard can offer via intelligent residual current monitoring was the source of considerable



interest among participants. Our experts were able to answer any initial questions directly on site. All in all, it was a very successful event, which provided visitors with plenty of interesting information and opportunities to network, and raised the profile of e.Guard in various industrial sectors. ■



## Compact design with double the safety

### Residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection

Our DRCBO 3 and 4 residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection protect people against residual currents and systems against short-circuit and overload. Despite this dual function, they don't take up much space on the DIN rail: only 2 to 2.5 module widths for the 1+N pole and 4/4.5 module widths for the 3+N pole devices. As well as saving space, using the DRCBO also brings further benefits: they can be used to partition electrical systems so that only the affected circuit is switched off in the event of a fault; this prevents entire areas of a warehouse from being left in the dark or unnecessary refrigeration equipment outages, for example. The DRCBO is available as residual current type A to provide protection in residential and purpose-built buildings. If equipment with electronic ballasts, such as LED lights or computers, is used at home or in the office, short-time delayed DRCBOs such as type A

KV or type F are recommended. The latter also provides protection against mixed frequency residual currents, which can occur when operating modern washing machines, for example. For circuits in which electronic equipment is used for power control, e.g. multi-phase frequency converters, the AC-DC sensitive DRCBO 4 B combinations are the preferred choice. All residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection from the DRCBO series impress thanks to their high-rated breaking capacity, their easy handling during installation and separate displays which provide a quick overview of the current operating status.

Doepke is constantly expanding its product range in the area of residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection and will soon have something new to unveil – watch this space! ■



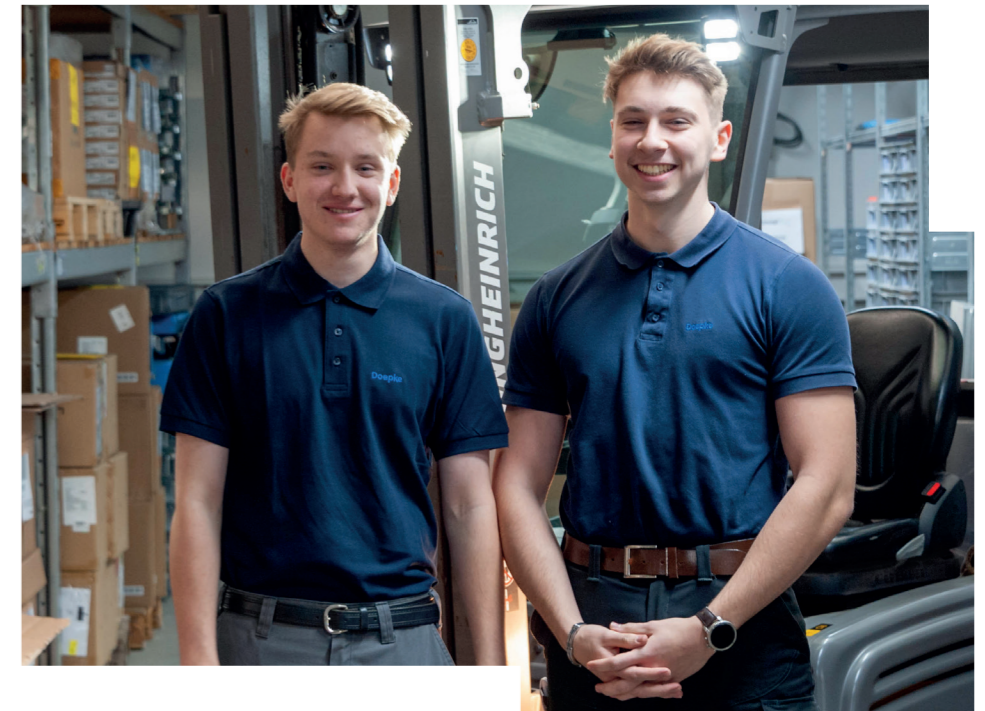
## Training at Doepke

### Diversity and quality

The job market has changed dramatically in recent years. This is not least due to demographic changes, which are making it increasingly difficult for many companies to fill their trainee posts.

Doepke is committed to adapting to these changing requirements and is therefore focusing on in-house training. This training is being provided in all areas from Tool Manufacture to Sales, to Plastic Injection Moulding and the internal IT department. The real net output ratio of 90% can only be achieved with a high number of specialist departments, which also enables the company to offer a wide selection of vocational training and dual study options. Doepke is currently training 27 trainees and work-study students in 13 different occupations and 3 courses of study.

Nine of these just started their training at the beginning of August and the new training places for 2024 have already been confirmed, although these still need to be filled. Applicants for training places can afford to pick and choose, since the number of training places available has exceeded the number of potential trainees across Germany for years. And the gap continues to grow. In order to appeal to young people as a training organisation, offering fair pay is no longer enough. The opportunity to play an active role in shaping the company, modern facilities, opportunities for further develop-



ment, an open company culture, a good work-life balance thanks to flexible working time models and, of course, the location all play a decisive role for many interested candidates. The quality of training provided is also a key factor.

Applicants know that the better the training, the more in-demand they will be as skilled workers on the job market in the long term. That's why good-quality training is an effective antidote to skilled labour shortages. Doepke is also well positioned in this regard. The East Frisian company was awarded the 'TOP

Trainer' quality seal by the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce two years ago in recognition of its training, and is required to comply with strict quality standards in order to continue using it. The award followed a three-stage inspection process. Since then, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce has continued regular monitoring to ensure the training provided by Doepke is of a consistent quality.

The places available for the 2024 training year can be viewed at [karriere.doepke.de](https://karriere.doepke.de). ■

## The minds behind Doepke

### Gerold Roofs – Head of Development and Construction

A company like Doepke is split into lots of different areas of responsibility. What are these areas and what are the current challenges?

We will now introduce our department heads in no particular order.



*Please introduce yourself briefly: How long have you been working at Doepke?*

My name is Gerold Roofs and I've been with Doepke since 1985. I started here as a developer after completing my training as an electrical engineer. Over the years, I've been involved with almost all products that Doepke has developed during my career. After lots of further training, including as a state-certified technician, I became a Team Leader, Laboratory Manager and in 2011 I took over as Head of Development and Construction.

*What is your department called and what are your tasks?*

My department is called Development and Construction. My main task is to ensure Doepke's future by working with my five heads of department and around 45 employees to create new products and systems with the necessary certifications and production/testing equipment.

*What specific projects/tasks are in store over the next 12 months?*

In relation to intelligent monitoring of residual currents, we are currently developing the e.Guard digital platform for a large number of our products which need to be modified accordingly. For trends like photovoltaics, heat pumps and electromobility, new and modified products are being developed to meet the requirements of consumers and manufacturers alike. There are also products in the pipeline for networks and applications that are still relatively rare, such as 400 Hz or DC networks. Last but not least, we are continuing to optimise our existing products.

My personal focus here, according to the coaching model, is to run the department with an approach that prioritises forward thinking and mutual appreciation. Apart from that, I want to continue to broaden the technological view into the world of electrical installation technology in order to provide inspiration for new products and systems. I'm also spending more and more time providing support to the Management Board.



# Our electrical finds

Be it cable chaos, a strange installation or even 'chindogu' – the electrical curiosities we encounter have one thing in common: they are out of the ordinary and catch our eye. Chindogu, by the way, is Japanese and means 'unusual tool'. The term refers to inventions that the world doesn't really need but finds very amusing. We want to make you marvel, shake your head or laugh out loud by sharing our favourite electrical finds with you in this regular feature.

A warmer for hot drinks or a fire hazard?



Udo Hayk, Head of the Electrical department at Brüninghoff, gave a wordless response to this question, performing a quick repeat test and then swiftly decommissioning what was left of this coffee machine. His colleague looked on, nonplussed, as he disposed of it. Thank you for the photo!

Do you have an entertaining electrical find to show us? If so, please take a photo of it and send it to us at: kommunikation@doepke.de. Important: we can only consider photos that you have taken yourself.

## Sabiene enjoys island life

Our trade fair mascot Sabiene spent her holiday on Sal, one of the beautiful Cape Verde islands, which form part of Macronesia. There are 15 Cape Verde islands in all, nine of which are inhabited. Sal is growing increasingly popular with tourists thanks to its saltworks which are filled with warm salt water. The region is also favoured by divers who appreciate the bio-diversity of its waters. Sabiene, however, prefers dry land and therefore decided to visit Porto de Palmeira, the third largest port in Cape Verde, and only enjoyed the saltworks from above. ■



## Doepke circuit-breaker stands the test of time



Here's something you don't see every day (and that's actually a good thing): this home meter system in the Nuremberg area, complete with original Engels & Doepke residual current circuit-breakers, is still in operation! The exact year it was installed is unknown, but it is likely to be around 60 years old. If this isn't proof of how durable our circuit-breakers are, then we don't know what is! ■

## Large group of visitors in Norden

We recently welcomed the largest ever group of visitors to our main plant in Norden with 70 employees from the Federal Technology Centre for Electrical Engineering and Information Technology (BfE) making the trip to see us. The group was split into two smaller groups for a factory tour and product training, before reuniting for a panel discussion with Klaus Freese, Master of the Guild for Electrical and Information Technology, East Frisia. ■



## Doepke on the run

Four kids, a mixed relay team and an individual runner in the 10k represented Doepke at the Ørsted summer relay 2023. Everyone gave it their all and ran brilliantly. Much respect to them for this outstanding sporting achievement! ■



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### QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

*Once a year, go somewhere  
you've never been before.*  
**Tenzin Gyatso, 14th Dalai Lama**

### DATES/NOTES

efa – Trade fair for electrical engineering, building systems and lighting technology (hall 5, stand E02)  
12–14 September 2023, Leipzig

Doepke Academy:  
Facilities at risk of fire  
21 September 2023

de-standards conference  
27 September 2023, Hamburg

Doepke Academy:  
OFF in an emergency!  
16 November 2023