

DIZ

Doepke-Info-Zeitung

The free customer newsletter from Doepke Schaltgeräte GmbH

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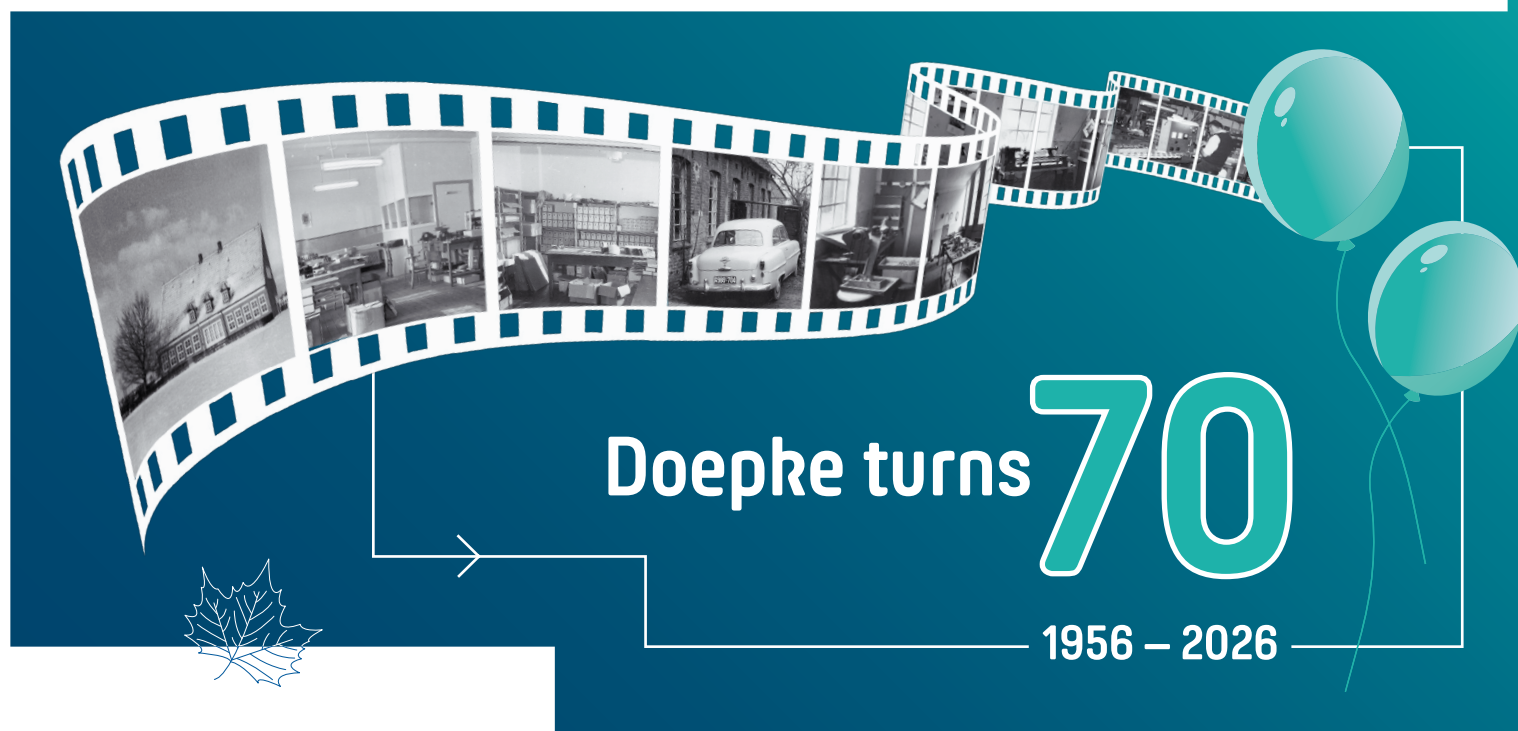
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Looking ahead to 2026

Great things are on the horizon as 2026 is set to be an important year for Doepke.

Of course, we can't wait to present our latest innovations to you at the Light + Building trade fair in Frankfurt in March. But that's not all. 2026 is also a special year of celebration for us, as it marks 70 years since Franz Doepke and August-Wilhelm Engels founded Doepke in Norden all the way back in 1956. From a modest factory that made do with just two rooms to a company with more than 500 employees at five locations worldwide, there have been quite a few developments along the way.

To mark the occasion, in this and the next issues of DIZ, we'd like to invite you on

a journey through the company history, product development and the people of Doepke.

And celebration is on the cards for Light + Building too. We hope you will join us at our stand for a special after-hours event to mark this special milestone.

This anniversary is not just a chance to look back, but also an opportunity to set our sights on the future with plenty of optimism. We have all sorts of exciting products in the pipeline for 2026 – from green energy solutions to equipment for special environmental conditions and facilities at risk of fire, as well

as brand new products for even safer ways to protect property and guard against fires. Stay tuned!

Doepke has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1956. But in all that time, there are a few things that have remained constant: despite the workforce growing to over 500 people, the feeling of being a family is still there. The focus on quality has stayed with us too, as has our location in Norden in East Frisia – and last but not least, our commitment to working towards a common goal: the safe use of electricity. ■





Doepke
e.Guard

System availability, fire protection and machine protection

Doepke e.Guard in action in timber processing

Sawmills are classified as facilities at risk of fire because the materials stored and processed there are highly flammable. For such areas, DIN VDE 0100-420 stipulates protection against residual currents of ≤ 300 mA.

In facilities with an increased fire risk, residual current devices (RCDs) with a rated residual current of 300 mA are therefore often used. If this value is reached or exceeded, the RCD quickly switches off the power supply at all poles. This prevents fires from breaking out, but often at the cost of the machinery coming to a standstill, which interrupts or restricts production – and this downtime always has a price.

Where it is not technically possible to use RCDs for protection, DIN VDE 0100-420 therefore permits the use of residual current monitors (RCMs) as an alternative.

A large sawmill in northern Germany was facing exactly this problem: the state-of-the-art processing machines were having problems with abrupt shutdowns caused by an RCD,

resulting in material damage to milling heads and spindles.



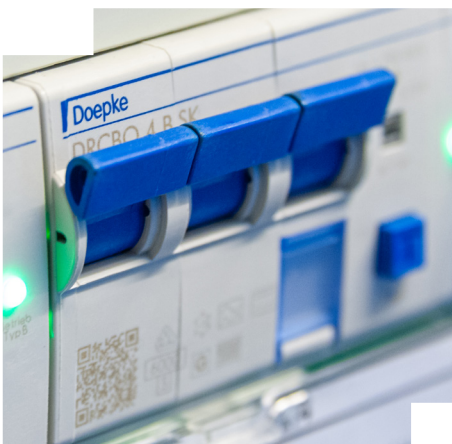
The company decided to introduce our intelligent residual current monitoring system e.Guard. Since then, the smart e.Guard residual current monitors have been continuously monitoring the facility. However, if the thresholds set in the e.Guard software are exceeded, the facility does not shut down, but instead a two-stage alarm system is activated via the potential-free contacts of the e.Guard RCM.

When the first alarm threshold of 150 mA is exceeded, a pre-alarm is triggered. The facility can now be shut down in a targeted manner and without damaging the machinery, allowing the electrician to identify and rectify the cause. Only when the main alarm is triggered – when the 'fire hazard' threshold value of 300 mA is exceeded – is the power supply immediately disconnected at all poles.

By using Doepke e.Guard, the sawmill not only ensures that the required fire protection is in place, but also significantly reduces the risk of machine damage caused by abrupt shutdowns. In addition, periodic insulation tests in accordance with DIN VDE 0105-100/A1 are no longer necessary, which further increases the availability of the facility.

Furthermore, continuous monitoring of the residual currents makes it possible to detect faults that develop gradually at an earlier stage in the long term, enabling even more targeted intervention. ■

DRCBO: double the safety, energy efficiency and high system availability



Residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection, DRCBOs, are a space-saving solution for implementing residual current protection and line protection in electrical systems. They also offer a decisive advantage when it comes to system availability: each circuit has its own residual current protection. If a residual current occurs, only the affected area is switched off.

This is useful in private households, for example, so that freezers can continue to run and programming or clock settings can be retained. In the commercial sector, targeted shutdowns can reduce operational disruptions

and save costs. In addition, the use of DRCBOs makes the task of troubleshooting much easier for electricians.

Doepke offers its DRCBO units as pulsating current-sensitive and AC current-sensitive Type A, as mixed frequency sensitive Type F and as AC-DC sensitive Type B and B+.

The DRCBO PV (photovoltaic) and DRCBO HP (heat pump) were developed especially for use in the green energy sector. The devices are short-time delayed, are particularly compact at a module width of 2.5 or 4.5, and are energy-efficient to operate thanks to their low dissipation power. ■

A journey through time – Doepke from 1956 to 2026

1956

Businessman **Franz Doepke** and technician **August-Wilhelm Engels** establish Doepke in Norden (East Frisia). They are pioneers in residual current protection technology, as they develop, manufacture and sell the first residual current circuit breakers. The business faces an uphill battle to begin with, as 'residual current circuit-breakers' are still relatively unknown in the 1950s and there are no regulations prescribing their use.

1979

The company takes a big step on the international stage: the subsidiary **Doepke UK** is established in England. Sales for the United Kingdom are concentrated at the Daventry site, where consumer units are also manufactured.

1993

Just four years after the fall of the Berlin wall, a new site is added: Doepke opens a new plant in **Bickenriede**, Thuringia. Miniature circuit-breakers and transformer assemblies are produced here.

1999

Doepke takes its international activities to the next level: the subsidiary **Doepke Middle East** is established in Dubai. The Asian market is served from here.

2019

Doepke brings the production of miniature circuit-breakers in-house. A new hall, '**Plant 2**', is added to the company premises. The number of employees grows to 250.

2020

Digitalisation takes a huge leap forward this year. The **Doepke Academy** now offers online training programmes on electrical engineering topics.

2022

Production figures are boosted even further. The number of employees now exceeds 400. A new product for monitoring electrical facilities is launched on the market under the sub-brand **Doepke e.Guard**. This brings software components into the Doepke portfolio for the first time.

2023

A new production hall is completed and another one is being planned. The subsidiary **Doepke Morocco** is established.

2026

Doepke celebrates its **70th anniversary**.



Doepke talk

11 December 2025

Subject: Leakage currents and their impact

The experts:



Jens Kleineberg



Sebastian Onnenberg



Johann Meints



Mario Sembritzhi

Our electrical finds

Be it a mess of cables, a strange installation or even 'chindogu', the electrical curiosities we come across have one thing in common: they are unusual and eye-catching. Chindogu, by the way, is a Japanese word that means 'strange device' – in other words, inventions that the world doesn't really need, but laughs at instead.

We hope to make you stare in amazement, shake your head or laugh out loud, by sharing our favourite electronic finds with you on a regular basis.



Believe it or not, this is a welding machine that not only actually worked at the time the photo was taken, but was also in regular use.

Many thanks to Andre Koning for the photo.

Do you have an entertaining electrical find to share with 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.

Beef in the Streets of London

London (was) calling, and Fiete answered – alas, not by taking the last Train to London, but instead arriving rather unspectacularly by plane. If there was one thing that had to be done in the British capital, it was a good old traditional sightseeing tour. The stops included Baker Street, Primrose Hill, the London Dungeon, Piccadilly, a rainy night in Soho and the Tower of London – and last but not least, Tower Bridge.

People often confuse this landmark with the much less ornate London Bridge. Both span the River Thames, but only Tower Bridge offers a glass walkway 42 metres above the river. Fiete enjoyed his trip immensely and now proudly



says, "I love London" – even though our mascot wished he'd had more time to get to know the London Boys and West End Girls. ■



Change in sales agency for the Stuttgart region

On 1 January 2026, our long-standing sales partner for the Freiburg region, Fred Abel GmbH, will also take over as the representative for our products in area 50. The family-owned company is set to open another branch in the greater Stuttgart area in spring 2026 to continue providing our customers with the best possible local support. The reason for this change is the retirement of Frank Bossert, head of the current sales agency, on 31 December 2025. We would like to thank Frank Bossert and his team for their many years of loyal and successful partnership. ■



A new face in the South West Technical Sales Team

A warm welcome to Patrick Schmidt! Since July, the trained electrician from the German city of Reutlingen has been supporting our technical sales team in the Baden-Württemberg region. He is an experienced trainer and, as your Doepke contact for the South West region, will assist you with all technical matters, advice and training relating to our products. ■



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QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

*"I don't know where I'm going
from here, but I promise
it won't be boring"*

David Bowie, musician, Londoner

DATES/NOTES

Doepke talk, online
11 December 2025

E-Training in
Building Technology
Rostock, 27 – 29/01/2026