

DIZ Doepke-Info-Zeitung

The free customer newsletter from Doepke Schaltgeräte GmbH



IN THIS ISSUE

Anniversary at Doepke..... 1	The safe way to charge electric vehicles 3	Sabiene in Piedmont 4
Uninterrupted transport 2	The brains behind Doepke..... 3	Exciting start to the year: construction work, Future Day, trade fairs and more 4
Doepke international – De Maegd NV..... 2	Our electrical finds 4	



1995 Start of manufacture for DLS 5 miniature circuit-breakers

2009 Start of production for DLS 6

2019 Construction of new hall and expansion of production operations

Anniversary at Doepke

Thirty years of electronics production in Bickenriede

Doepke’s subsidiary plant in Bickenriede, Thuringia, has now been producing electronics for thirty years, having started in 1993. That is reason enough for us to celebrate and take a look back.

In 1991, company founder Franz Doepke had the idea of opening a subsidiary plant in central Germany. Firstly, he wanted to raise the profile of Doepke products on the east German and eastern European markets following the fall of the Berlin Wall; secondly, the main plant in Norden was at full capacity and there was no possibility for expansion at the site back then.

In October 1992, the foundation block for the production plant was laid in Bickenriede, Thuringia, on the site of an old garden centre and production began almost exactly a year later, in September 1993.

In 1994, Joachim Retzek then took charge of the plant and production of the DLS 5 miniature circuit-breaker began the following year.

At the start of the new millennium, electronics production had to be moved back to the parent factory in Norden during an economically difficult period. Unfortunately, there were also some job losses at this time. However, production of the miniature circuit-breakers continued at the Bickenriede site with 13 positions being retained. Since 2009, the new generation of DLS 6 miniature circuit-breakers has also been developed here.

In 2022, Joachim Retzek retired after more than 27 years at the company. The new plant manager is Andreas Hülfenhaus, who has been part of the Doepke team in Bickenriede since 2019.

Developments in recent years suggest the outlook for the future is positive. With the company recording stable growth in spite of world crises such as the COVID pandemic and the war in Ukraine, production has been scaled up and the site expanded both at the plant in Bickenriede and at headquarters in Norden. In 2018, the existing building was comprehensively renovated and a new 720-m² hall was built the year after that. There are also plans for an additional production area of 760 m². The number of employees has also increased, with 51 people now employed at Bickenriede.

Staff in Norden are looking forward to welcoming colleagues from Bickenriede to this year’s summer party in East Frisia so that everyone can celebrate the anniversary together. ■

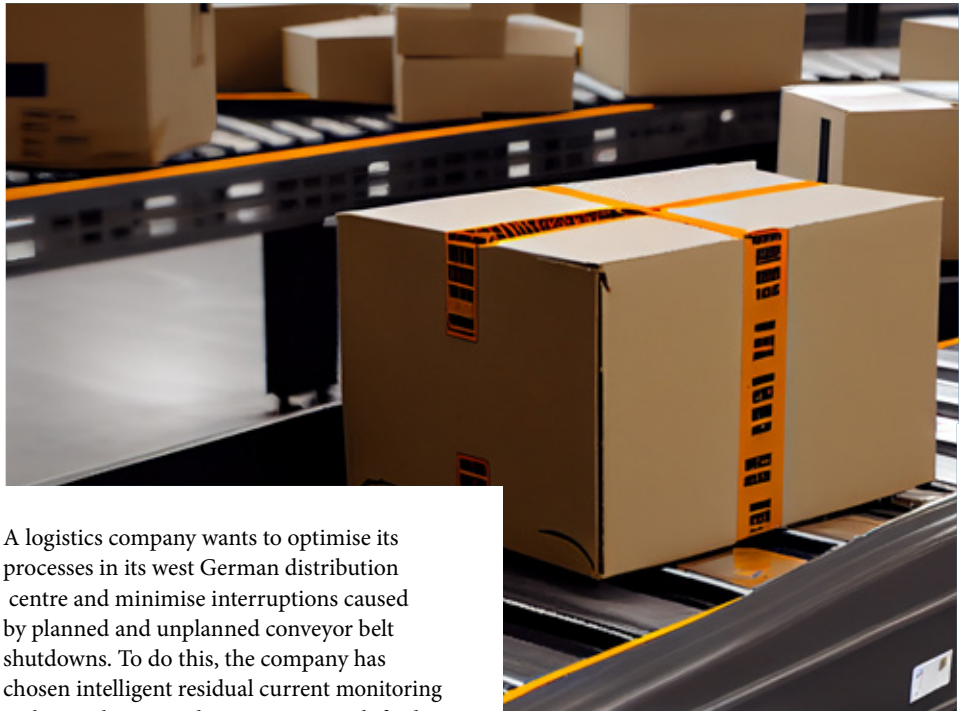
Uninterrupted transport

Doepke e.Guard in use in the distribution centre

The logistics industry is one of the most important branches of the economy in Germany and is constantly growing. In the field of shipping and transportation, in particular, every minute counts – as customers expect their goods to reach their destination as quickly as possible. Logistics companies therefore rely on smooth operations in all areas.

Distribution centres are central hubs for further goods processing and order picking. Conveyor belts, which handle thousands of packages day and night, must be kept running at all times, if possible.

Full availability of the electrical installation is therefore essential for everything to run smoothly.



A logistics company wants to optimise its processes in its west German distribution centre and minimise interruptions caused by planned and unplanned conveyor belt shutdowns. To do this, the company has chosen intelligent residual current monitoring with Doepke e.Guard in LEVEL 2. Each feed line of the conveyor belts is monitored with an e.Guard transformer.

The residual currents that arise are monitored permanently by an e.Guard Gateway.

This gives the responsible electrician a constant stream of information about the current insulation conditions and operational leakage currents of the installation during operation. Thanks to data recording, changes can be easily identified, and insulation faults that appear slowly over time can be spotted early on as a result. Any maintenance work required can be planned and carried out in an organised manner. Furthermore, the company can dispense with the periodic insulation checks according to DIN VDE 0105-100/A1 thanks to the constant residual current monitoring. As a result, the installation no longer has to be switched off at regular intervals in order to perform the time-consuming measurements. ■

Doepke

e.Guard

RED DOT AWARD:
PRODUCT DESIGN 2023

→ e.Guard wins over the
international Red Dot Jury

→ and beats tough
competition to win





red dot winner 2023
smart product

DOEPKE / eguard.de - detect and prevent.



Doepke international – our sales agencies all over the world

- Belgium:* De Maegd NV
- Founded:* 1974
- Location:* Heverlee
- Employees:* 12

Our partner De Maegd provides services to numerous Belgian clients from the construction and event sector, agriculture, electrical wholesale sector, and industry. They rely on high-quality and ultra-reliable solutions.

Our products help De Maegd deliver this thanks to their proven reliability in even the most challenging situations. De Maegd therefore uses Doepke circuit breakers in the distribution boxes manufactured in-house. The reliability of Doepke products is a factor in De Maegd's excellent customer retention record. The bond between Doepke and De Maegd is strong: the partnership has already lasted for 30 years and, since 1998, De Maegd has been our official sales partner for Belgium. ■

The safe way to charge electric vehicles

Residual current protection for charging devices



The motivating factors behind it are varied, but there is a clear trend on Germany's roads towards electric cars and hybrid vehicles. At the same time, the public charging infrastructure is constantly being expanded and the number of charging stations in private garages is also on the rise. This is not least a consequence of comprehensive federal funding programmes. But whether it's a private wallbox at home or a public charging point – 'charging stations' are usually used by people with no expertise in electrical engineering and therefore need to be designed to be completely safe in order to avoid dangerous situations or even electrical accidents.

Smooth DC residual currents higher than 6 mA can be produced when electric vehicles are being charged. This goes beyond the design scope of conventional Type A or Type F residual current circuit-breakers.

In a worst-case scenario, these circuit-breakers may fail as a result of the pre-magnetisation of their summation current transformer, and this failure may go unnoticed.

Doepke offers a wide range of products that are specifically designed for e-mobility charging facilities. The residual current circuit-breaker DFS F EV, for example, not only detects AC residual currents and pulsating DC residual currents, but also residual currents consisting of mixed frequencies that deviate from 50 Hz. The special feature of the EV design is the integrated AC residual current detection, which reliably detects smooth AC residual currents and makes sure that they are switched off at a maximum of 6 mA. This means that DFS products with EV functionality comply with product standard IEC 62955.

The residual current circuit-breaker DFS 4 A EV NA offers additional safety in public spaces, for example. It not only monitors the charging device, but also the external emergency stop circuit.

In the event of danger, one or even several charging points can be switched off centrally at the push of a button.

The new DFS 6 A EV OCP HD combines the e-mobility-optimised protection provided by the DFS EV with integrated switchable overcurrent protection (OCP). As there is no need for miniature circuit-breakers and contactors, the device saves a considerable amount of space. The OCP is designed to withstand high temperatures, due to solar irradiation for example, without this impairing its functioning (no derating, thus no downgrade of the specified current strength). Thanks to the HD design, this residual current circuit-breaker is also resistant to extreme temperature fluctuations and moisture. The line protection can be switched to 16 A or 32 A via the charging controller, depending on which charging cable is connected.

Doepke is continuing to expand its product range in the field of residual current protection for the charging infrastructure. ■



The brains behind Doepke

Dirk Rambow – Head of Materials Management

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 Dirk Rambow. I have been working as Head of Materials Management at Doepke since 1 October 2022. Before that, I had similar jobs in various industrial companies over the years. The focus of my work is always on optimal supply.

What is your department called and what are your tasks?

My department (materials management) deals with the procurement of materials and services as

well as the storage and distribution of materials internally and of assemblies and finished goods externally.

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

In 2023 and 2024, we have a few challenges to deal with, for example the relocation of the storage unit from its current location to a new hall.

As with all areas and departments, we are just one part of the whole and we rely on all parts working well together. Every employee has a role to play in this. We can only achieve our goals together.



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.

We would like to thank Helmut Kiehling for sending us this find, which he spotted in the cellar of an old apartment in north Germany.



With a twinkle in his eye, he writes: "I now know why a ship fitting like this has two cable entries. Actually, a third cable entry is missing. Then you could also feed the PE into the light as well, even if it is not actually required."

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 in Piedmont

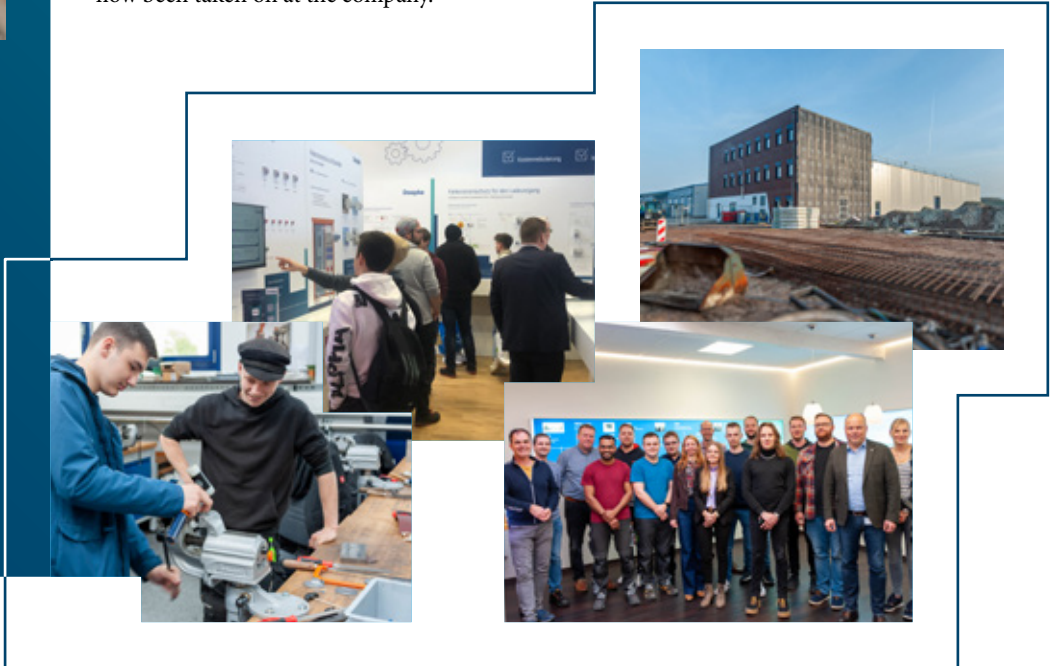
Our Sabiene has been travelling around Piedmont, an Italian region that is well known to those with a sweet tooth for its cherries. The famous Piedmont cherry is not a variety though, but a registered trademark. And cherries are not the main driving force behind Piedmont's economic success. Rather, big companies such as Fiat, Lancia, Ferrero and Olivetti have made this region one of the richest in Italy. Piedmont is also famous for its fine wines, such as Barolo. Our little mascot very much enjoyed her time in Piedmont even without pralines, and you can look forward to her next adventure very soon! ■



Exciting start to the year: construction work, Future Day, trade fairs and more

We have started 2023 on a roll: we have continued our expansion and conversion work, we have attended trade fairs such as elektrotechnik, Middle East Energy, eltefa and the Hannover Messe, we have hosted numerous plant visits and we have held a ceremony for trainees who have successfully completed their training or studies. By the way, all of them have now been taken on at the company.

Our experts have also been on site at many training sessions. Every spring, Future Day for Girls and Boys – or Girls' Day, Boys' Day as it is otherwise known – is always a great challenge. This year, our trainees were in charge of the organisation and it was a tremendous success! ■



PUBLISHER

Doepke

Schaltgeräte GmbH
Stellmacherstr. 11
26506 Norden, Germany

@ info@doepke.de
T +49 (0) 49 31 18 06-0
F +49 (0) 49 31 18 06-101

www doepke.de

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

Perseverance pays
(La costanza sempre avanza)
Italian saying

DATES/NOTES

eltec (Hall 9, Stand C 15)
23–25 May 2023, Nuremberg

de-Normentagung
19 July 2023, Munich

efa (stand no. tba)
12–14 September 2023, Leipzig

We will be there!