

DIZ

Doepke-Info-Zeitung

The free customer newsletter from Doepke Schaltgeräte GmbH

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IN THIS ISSUE

Destination future.....	1	Compact dual protection.....	3		
E-Mobility I – a real life example.....	2	Seal of approval for training.....	3	Sabiene at the class reunion	4
E-Mobility II – new grants	2	New faces in Sales.....	3	Doepke Academy: Expert talk	4
E-Mobility III – OFF in an emergency!.....	2	Our electrical finds	4	Fire drill at Bickenriede.....	4

Destination future

Doepke expands sites further

In 2018, Doepke repositioned itself as a brand and has since experienced rapid growth. Aside from the general boom in electronic products, due in part to the rise of electromobility, a more international focus has triggered a huge surge in demand for Doepke products.

This has made major investments in buildings and machines not only necessary, but also possible. In Norden, parts of production, the warehouse and some offices have been relocated to an additional 4,500 m² hall. This additional space also provided the opportunity to significantly expand the individual departments.

At the same time, the manufacturing plant in Bickenriede, Thuringia, has also been expanded. The production areas were restructured and

extended, the office spaces modernised and the outside areas renovated.

With new machines at both sites, Doepke Germany now has two ultra-modern plants for manufacturing residual current circuit breakers, miniature circuit breakers and residual current monitors. On top of that, Doepke is an industry pioneer in the field of digital training thanks to its online seminars and expert talks.

Despite that fact that the company has almost doubled staff numbers in recent years and has also increased its physical footprint, there is no end in sight to its growth. As such, even more buildings are being constructed at the company's premises in Norden.

A new hall is currently being developed to house electronics manufacturing operations and office spaces for the technology team.

And yet, even this new hall will not be enough to cover the planned expansion in production. Further production spaces are already being planned.

Doepke keeps on moving. ■



What happens when an emergency charging cable is used on a regular basis?



An electric vehicle was connected via its emergency charging cable to this socket on a daily basis for a period of approximately ten months. Thankfully, the owner got off relatively lightly, because they simply noticed at some point that the socket was no longer working. However, in the worst-case scenario, a cable fire could have led to a garage and house fire. Manufacturers provide instructions – sometimes clear, sometimes not so clear – that the 230 V cable must only be used in emergencies and not on a daily basis. This is because electric cars are charged

under high load. A standard socket cannot cope with this load in the long run. If the electrics are properly protected with suitable circuit breakers, in the best-case scenario, regular use of the emergency cable merely results in the miniature circuit breaker or residual current circuit breaker being tripped. In the worst case, the cable can become damaged, which can lead to devastating fires. As such, e-car drivers should use good-quality wallboxes with reliable circuit breakers and have them installed by a professional. ■

Grants for charging devices for companies and local authorities

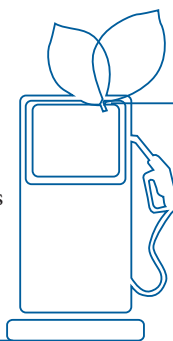
Germany's national development bank, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), helps with the purchase and installation of charging devices for electric vehicles in the commercial sector with its Grant 441.

Private and municipal companies, freelancers and non-profit organisations can apply for the funding. One condition for this is that

the charging stations are not accessible to the public, but only to company vehicles and private vehicles owned by employees. The bank offers up to EUR 900 per charging point. And with its Grant 439, the KfW also supports local authorities and districts with the procurement of charging devices.

The bank is thus offering two further funding

packages for the expansion of the electric car charging infrastructure now that funding for domestic devices has expired. ■



OFF in an emergency!

– New residual current circuit breaker DFS 4 A EV NA



With our new DFS 4 A EV NA, we are bringing onto the market a residual current circuit breaker with emergency stop function for use in electric mobility charging equipment. This is an expansion to our range of products for one of the key markets of the future: e-mobility.

Our DFS 4 A EV NA not only monitors the charging device, but also the external emergency stop circuit. In the event of danger, one or more charging points can therefore be turned off centrally by pressing a connected emergency off switch or button.

The DFS 4 A EV NA has an emergency stop circuit that is secure against wire breakage as well as an integrated auxiliary switch for signalling the switching status remotely.

As with all EV residual current circuit breakers, the new DFS 4 A EV NA has an active additional function for detecting smooth DC residual currents ≥ 6 mA, which can occur when charging electric cars. It therefore provides reliable all-round protection for wallboxes and charging columns. ■



Compact double protection

DRCBO 4 B residual current-operated circuit breaker with integral overcurrent protection combination

The DRCBO – a tried-and-tested combination of residual current protection and line protection – is the most compact solution for reliably protecting circuits in electronic devices used for power control (e.g. frequency converters or other power converters) in the event of short-circuit, overload or residual currents. Possible applications include pump installations, air conditioning and ventilation systems, photovoltaic systems, heat pumps, cranes and various types of electrical equipment for construction sites.

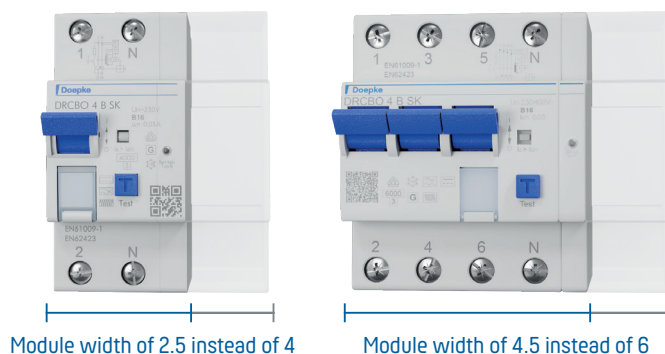
Doepke now offers the residual current-operated circuit breaker with integral overcurrent protection in an even more compact form: the DRCBO 4 B has a module width of just 2.5 units in the two-pole variant, and 4.5 units in the four-pole design. In the event of an over-

load or short-circuit, only the faulty circuit is switched off. This simplifies the troubleshooting process, increases the system's availability and also reduces costs in the process.

And the compact size isn't the only advantage... the DRCBO also comes in several different variants: as well as rated residual currents of 30 mA and 300 mA, it is now also available with a rated residual current of 100 mA. In addition to the tripping characteristics already available, SK and NK, the residual current-operated circuit breaker

with integral overcurrent protection is now also available in a B+ version. All versions are available for rated currents up to 32 A.

All DRCBO-series circuit breakers are, of course, VDE-certified. ■



Seal of approval for training

CIC recognises Doepke with "TOP Training" award

The Chamber of Industry and Commerce for East Frisia and Papenburg has awarded Doepke Schaltgeräte GmbH from Norden its seal of approval in recognition of the company's training efforts.

The situation on 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. This means training is all the more important. Applicants for a trainee

position can afford to be picky because they know that better training brings better opportunities on the job market. As such, good-quality training is an effective antidote to staff shortages.



CIC Chief Executive Officer Dr Torsten Slink hands the "TOP Training" award to Doepke Managing Director Andreas Müller. Also present: Sandra Best (HR Manager), Alexandra Gerdes (Training Coordinator) and Ewald Thoben (CIC Auditor).

Managing Director Andreas Müller shares this view: "The award from the CIC is recognition of our training work and gives us the motivation to continue on this path."

CIC's three-stage review procedure ends with an all-day audit, in which the current training situation is assessed, and plans and suggestions for the course of future training work are discussed.

For HR Manager Sandra Best, giving trainees responsibility within the company is crucial. "We consider our trainees as employees who not only acquire knowledge, but who also bring new ideas and inspiration to the table."

Doepke is currently training 19 trainees and 7 dual students in 13 different occupations and 3 courses of study. And there are still some individual training spots available to start in 2022. ■

New faces in Sales



Wilko Stein

Division Manager Nicole Heyen is pleased to welcome new members to her team. Over the past year, Wilko Stein has been working as the new Head of Department for Internal Sales. Together with his

colleagues, he deals with requests and order processing. Technical Sales has also expanded, with two new members – Martin Kaden and Andre Koning – joining the team. Martin Kaden now deals with the sales regions in Bavaria, and Andre Koning covers the North Rhine-Westphalia area. They work closely on-site with Wilko Stein and other colleagues in the Internal Sales team to provide advice, training and customer service. Welcome to Doepke! ■



Martin Kaden



Andre Koning

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 stare in amazement, shake your head or laugh out loud by sharing our favourite electrical finds with you in this regular feature.

This is a 'Wurster'. It works like a toaster but for bratwurst. Just put in two sausages, plug it into the socket and let them toast. They taste almost the same as if they were grilled. You may now really want the Wurster as a Christmas present or to give it to someone else, but please don't hate us for showing it to you in February... Christmas is only ten months away after all!



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 at the class reunion



Back together again! Our trade fair mascots from the past ten years met for a little class reunion thanks to Jennifer Hefti from our Swiss sales agency Demelectric. Sabiene, Pinni, Bello and the Sheep can be seen smiling for the camera. But where are the angel and Julio? Probably at the bar! They will no doubt have plenty of stories to swap about their travels and Sabiene will no doubt pick up some tips for her appearance at Light + Building in the autumn. ■

Doepke Academy kicks off its third year with an expert talk

The third year of our digital Doepke Academy got under way with a Doepke talk led by a top panel of experts.

Jan-Bernd Burhop (Loss Prevention Director, Öffentliche Versicherung Oldenburg), Lutz Erbe (Consultant, VGH Versicherung) and Stefan Davids (Doepke) shared views on fire protection in electric systems, with Johann

Meints hosting. Some spectators also took part with questions and contributions to the discussion. And in the afternoon, there was the usual live demonstration.

Thomas Pöttgen (Managing Director PRO-EL GmbH) showed the audience how to commission an electric car charging device properly as part of 'Fire safety in e-mobility'. ■

274
participants



Neenaw neenaw – Fire drill at the Bickenriede manufacturing plant



In the autumn, the Bickenriede Volunteer Fire Brigade ran a drill at our manufacturing plant premises. A fire was simulated in the storage area with one missing person. Barely two minutes after the alarm was triggered, 15 fire-fighters arrived in their fire engine. By this point, thick smoke was billowing out of the storage area – courtesy of a fog machine. After setting up the water supply, fire-fighters wearing protective breathing equipment filed into the ware-

house and were able to rescue the missing person – played by a Bickenriede colleague – within a few minutes and the 'fire' was quickly put out. A successful and exciting day for all involved! ■



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QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

*Tomorrow belongs to those
who can hear it coming.*

David Bowie

DATES/NOTES

8th VDE Annual Forum on Electrical Safety
10–11 May 2022, Dresden

E-Training in Building Technology
16–18 August 2022, Rostock

New date for Light + Building
2–6 October 2022, Frankfurt

We will be there!