ERBE – A COMPANY PROFILE

The company

Erbe Elektromedizin GmbH was founded in 1851 in Tuebingen, Germany. Christian O. Erbe leads the family business in the 5th generation together with four other managing directors. Erbe develops, manufactures and markets instruments, devices and services for electrosurgery, thermofusion, plasmasurgery, cryosurgery and hydrosurgery. Erbe is considered a pioneer in electrosurgery, a technology that utilizes high-frequency currents in order to cut, coagulate and devitalize tissue, and to seal vessels.

Central departments

The products are manufactured primarily at our sites in Tuebingen and Rangendingen with a high level of in-house manufacturing. From the initial idea through to product innovation, all departments at both locations are involved in the process: research, development, manufacturing, logistics and materials management, quality assurance and regulatory affairs, intellectual property, finance and human resources, IT, technical service, sales, and marketing. All our employees are specialists for quality and innovation "made in Germany".

Sales and service network

Erbe has an extensive network of sales and service employees in Germany. Internationally, Erbe is represented by subsidiaries in Belgium, China, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, India, Italy, Austria, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Switzerland and the USA. The company also has representative offices in the Lebanon and in Peru that look after the respective regions. Exclusive specialist dealers cover a further 110 national markets, ensuring international customer proximity.
Customers across the world are supplied directly from Tuebingen via the central logistics system established in 2008.

International communication

In order to keep pace with developments in the medical field and to drive progress, Erbe maintains close communication with key users from medical schools and hospitals. Experience with the products and their application is shared as part of workshops and observational visits, or through trade shows.
Internationally, Erbe is involved in around 400 events such as workshops and congresses. Sharing experience in this way is of benefit to all concerned, ultimately and most importantly of course, to the patient.

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History

The original small-sized operation has grown steadily over five generations to a medium-sized company that now employs more than 1,000 members of staff.

Milestones over five generations:

First generation (1851 – 1882)

1851	Development of the first instruments for galvanocaustic therapy in collaboration with Prof. Bruns; Erbe manufactures galvanic batteries that provide a source of electrical current
1867	Development of the first test spectacle lense sets with diopter classification in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Nagel

Second generation (1882 – 1907)

around 1880	Development of different batteries and induction equipment
around 1890	Development of the Cathcart microtome by Christian Gottlieb Erbe
1893	Award at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893

Third generation (1907 – 1965)

1923	Market launch of the first high-frequency generator for surgery
1925	The world’s first portable X-ray machine, the Erbe X
1928	Targeting device for electrosurgical coagulation of the trigeminal ganglion

Fourth generation (1962 – 2002)

1976	Expansion of the product program to include cryosurgical systems
1977	First Erbotom T 400 C device
1992	Launch of the ERBOTOM ICC series with "Intelligent Cut and Coagulation"

Fifth generation (1996 to present)

2002	VIO electrosurgery system goes on sale
2007	Market launch of ERBEJET as a foundation system for hybrid technology, HybridKnife (2009) and BiCision (2011)
2016	Launch of VIO® 3, with its large touchscreen display

Products and applications

The VIO workstations offer optimum power adjustment, with modes and configurable hardware for all specialist fields. The systems are primarily used in abdominal surgery, gynecology, urology and gastroenterology. In addition to the electrosurgical device, sub-systems such as smoke plume evacuation or the endoscopy irrigation pump can be integrated into the workstation in a modular fashion.

The instrument portfolio is comprised of open-surgery, laparoscopic and endoscopic products such as electrodes and electrode pencils, applicators, probes or electrosurgical forceps, scissors, clamps and accessories such as footswitches, patient plates, etc.

Further information about the variety of applications supported by the Erbe range of products is available under: Product applications