

COMPANY FACT SHEET

The company

In 2026 the Erbe Elektromedizin GmbH celebrated its 175th anniversary under the motto “Progress with Purpose.” Since 1851 Erbe Elektromedizin GmbH develops, manufactures, and distributes surgical instruments and devices worldwide, while providing services for professional use of these products in a diverse range of medical disciplines. Physicians, clinical teams and patients around the world rely on medical technology from Erbe. The instruments and devices find use in almost all specialist areas. They are based on electrosurgery combined with other Erbe technologies. Hybrid solutions enable new, innovative applications in medicine. Founded in Tuebingen, Germany, in 1851, Erbe is a family-owned company led in the fifth generation by CEO Christian O. Erbe and four Managers. The Erbe Group employs more than 2,200 people worldwide. Erbe is a pioneer of electrosurgery: its first electrosurgical high-frequency generator for surgery was launched in 1923.

Technologies, products and applications

The portfolio covers electrosurgery, vessel sealing, plasma surgery, cryotechnology, hydrosurgery and imaging. Erbe technologies support clinical disciplines including gastroenterology, general surgery, gynecology, pulmonology and urology. VIO workstations offer multimodal functionality for different clinical specialties. Depending on the application, systems such as APC 3 and ERBECRYO 2 can be combined with the workstation. Modular accessories include smoke evacuation and endoscopic irrigation systems. The instrument portfolio includes products for open surgery, laparoscopy and flexible endoscopy: electrodes, pencils, applicators, probes, bipolar forceps, scissors, clamps and accessories.

Research, development and operations

More than 300 employees work in research and development. Collaboration with physicians, medical faculties and hospitals helps translate clinical needs into innovation. Erbe has a high level of in-house manufacturing, particularly at the Tuebingen and Rangendingen sites, supported by functions spanning research, development, production, logistics, quality, regulatory affairs, service, sales and marketing.

Sales and service network

Erbe maintains a sales and service network in Germany and internationally. Its international locations include Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, China, France, Great Britain, India, Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. International distributors extend the company’s market reach. The Erbe Group is represented in 110 countries through its own units, production sites and distributor network. The central logistics system in Rangendingen supplies global customers.

Clinical exchange and international communication

Erbe exchanges experience with medical users through workshops, clinical observerships and scientific congresses. The company participates in approximately 400 events annually.

Selected milestones across five generations

First generation (1851 – 1882)

- 1851 Development of the first instruments for galvanocaustic therapy in collaboration with Prof. Bruns; Erbe manufactures galvanic batteries providing 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 electrosurgical HF-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 Market launch of the VIO electrosurgical system
- 2007 Market launch of ERBEJET® 2 as a foundation system for hybrid technology with the HybridKnife® (2009)
- 2011 First sealing and cutting instrument: BiCision®
- 2015 Launch of APCapplicator range for use in open surgery and laparoscopy
- 2016 Launch of electrosurgical unit VIO® 3, with its large touchscreen display, and in addition APC 3
- 2016 Market launch of the HybridAPC probe for Gastroenterology
- 2017 Launch of single use cryoprobe (4 versions) for extended applications in Pulmonology
- 2023 Expansion of the product program with products for imaging
- 2024 Market launch of multifunctional laparoscopic instrument TriSect rapide®
- 2024 Production starts at the new factory in Rangendingen
- 2026 - 175th anniversary under the motto Progress with Purpose.