

VDE: Technology Can Only Succeed If People Trust

Trust in technology is built through independent testing and experts who stand behind their work—and through common standards and regulations. Ansgar Hinz, CEO of the VDE, highlights this point ahead of the IEC General Meeting in Hamburg.

(Frankfurt am Main, October 21, 2026) No one checks a vehicle's software or the safety of a wallbox before getting in. People rely on the fact that independent experts have already done so. Every day, we rely on technology that hardly any of us fully understand in detail. "Trust determines whether a technology finds its way into everyday life and becomes an innovation, or remains confined to the laboratory," says Ansgar Hinz, CEO of the VDE Group. "But trust doesn't arise on its own. It is based on transparent rules, traceable testing procedures, and jointly developed international standards."

Standards reflect the current state of the art. They ensure that products function safely, are interoperable with one another, and are developed worldwide according to comparable requirements. In Germany, electrotechnical standardization is organized by the DKE—the German Commission for Electrical, Electronic, and Information Technologies (DKE)—which is supported by the VDE. Approximately 10,000 experts from industry, academia, government agencies, and associations volunteer their time there to contribute to standardization.

Trust Is the Focus of the IEC General Meeting

European and international standards are becoming increasingly important. Today, 85 percent of electrotechnical standards are already based on European or global standards. For this reason, the DKE, as the German standards organization, is also actively involved in CENELEC at the European level and in the IEC at the international level. The IEC General Meeting, taking place November 16–21 in Hamburg and organized by the DKE, also demonstrates just how

international standardization has become. More information about the meeting, which is expected to draw up to 4,000 experts in electrical engineering standardization, is available [here](#).

One of the five key topics of the General Meeting is trust. "Especially in uncertain times, norms and standards developed through international cooperation are of great value," says Hinz. The strong position of German experts in international standardization also bolsters innovation and competitiveness in Germany: "Innovation requires speed. Acceptance requires trust. Norms and standards create the link between the two."

In the fall of 2026, the VDE will be taking an in-depth look at the topic of trust in technology on its website. Click [here](#) to visit the topic page (in German).

About VDE:

VDE, one of the largest technology organizations in Europe, has been regarded as a synonym for innovation and technological progress for more than 130 years. VDE is the only organization in the world that combines science, standardization, testing, certification, and application consulting under one umbrella. The VDE mark has been synonymous with the highest safety standards and consumer protection for more than 100 years.

Our passion is the advancement of technology, the next generation of engineers and technologists, and lifelong learning and career development "on the job". Within the VDE network more than 2,000 employees at over 60 locations worldwide, more than 100,000 honorary experts, and around 1,500 companies are dedicated to ensuring a future worth living: networked, digital, electrical. Shaping the e-dialistic future.

The VDE (VDE Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies) is headquartered in Frankfurt am Main. For more information, visit www.vde.com

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