On the pitch at every tournament: Football Cup interview with Markus Holzke

SPIE has been organising a football tournament for all employees in all of its countries for 33 years – a true highlight every year! And SPIE Deutschland & Zentraleuropa has organised a qualifier tournament since 2016: the SPIE Football Challenge Cup. Every year, Markus Holzke, Managing Director / CEO of SPIE Deutschland & Zentraleuropa, is out on the pitch with colleagues playing for a spot in the championship match.

Markus, why did SPIE start the football tournament 33 years ago?

For us as a business, it's important to create a good working environment where our employees feel good and can make their best effort. So we organise events and activities on a regular basis, like the annual football tournament. That gives people a way to get acquainted with their fellow employees across countries, operational divisions and departments, and it builds solidarity in the spirit of ONE SPIE, creating a positive, friendly atmosphere. That's something I value a lot, and it's why I'm glad to take part myself every year.



How did you prepare for the football tournament this year?

I try to practise as much as possible to stay in shape, even though I don't have as much time for it as I'd like. But I can keep up pretty well (laughs). Of course, the main thing in our tournaments is the team spirit and the fun of playing.

What does football mean to you, and which team are you rooting for?

Football is a great team game, where all players can contribute with their different strengths. It's also a great way to stay fit and reduce stress. I'm a fan of Borussia Dortmund. Not all of my management board colleagues share my enthusiasm for this club. But we've learned how to deal with such differences in opinion (laughs).