

CBE on board the Fiat Ducato 4x4 Expedition

CBE doesn't just supply large motorhome manufacturers: it also caters to smaller outfitters, offering standard modular solutions that are designed to satisfy every need, even in terms of price.

Words Giorgio Carpi

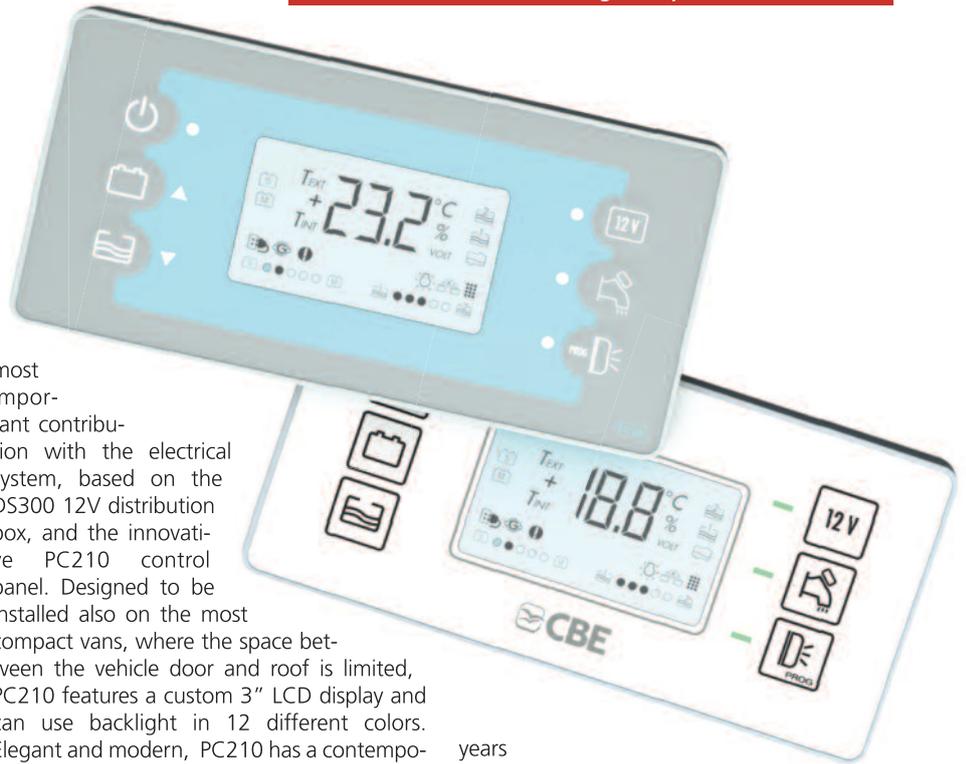
In 2016, CBE will celebrate 40 years in business, having acquired a leadership position in Europe in the field of electrical and electronic components applied to recreational vehicles. CBE supplies over two thirds of premium vehicle manufacturers, and is a leader in the medium-high bracket as well. This specialization in the premium segment has allowed CBE to develop innovative and reliable products bearing high quality standards. The Italian company's core business is the electrical wiring and electronic components sector, and CBE is also renowned for the excellent design and innovative features of its control panels.

CBE is among the partners that have collaborated with Tecnoform to create the Fiat Ducato 4x4 Expedition. This vehicle, presented at all the major European trade fairs, is a unique prototype model through which Fiat, thanks also to its technical partners, proposes innovative solutions with the aim of engaging customers in Europe's growing van segment. The Fiat Ducato 4x4 Expedition is an all-wheel drive motorhome designed for an adventure seeking clientele, without foregoing elegance and comfort during stopovers. CBE supplied the Berker line switches in the chrome matte version, and the DLS-200 light dimmers, which allow to vary the intensity of LED lights. Lighting is an aspect Tecnoform has been working on intensely, integrating light points in furnishing components and providing highly customized lighting solutions, bathroom included. However CBE provided its

most important contribution with the electrical system, based on the DS300 12V distribution box, and the innovative PC210 control panel. Designed to be installed also on the most compact vans, where the space between the vehicle door and roof is limited, PC210 features a custom 3" LCD display and can use backlight in 12 different colors. Elegant and modern, PC210 has a contemporary design that recalls the latest high tech trends in terms of styling and materials. It features a flat design, with a visible section that is only 9 mm thick.

"This is the second time we have the opportunity to participate with Tecnoform in very innovative projects," affirms Italy sales manager Dorian Sosi, "the previous time was two

years ago with the Airstream Tecnoform Design Lab caravan, and now with this interesting exercise in style by Fiat. We're very pleased to contribute to the development of concepts that provide original and unique interpretations in terms of design and use of recreational vehicles."



Duo Panel by CBE and Whale

In 2014, CBE started up a partnership with Whale, a UK based company and leading manufacturer of recreational vehicle components, specifically water pumps and gas and electrical water and space heating systems. A partnership that has given rise to the new Duo Panel, capable of managing both space heaters and water heaters. Currently, Duo Panel is standard on many motorhomes and caravans bearing the UK brand Elddis, and in the coming months will be installed by other manufacturers as well.

In developing Duo Panel, CBE had to take into account a variety of factors: this new control panel needed to be simple to use (although it needed to control products of a certain complexity), with a limited overall size,

costs compatible with those of an initial installation, versatility (use of the same control panel for several versions of WHALE equipment), and retro-compatibility with the previous generation of WHALE control systems.

Duo Panel is a synthesis of all these specifications, providing an all-in-one solution with the following advantages / characteristics:

- It can control different versions of WHALE space heaters (e.g. 2kW and 4kW)
- It can control WHALE water heaters
- It offers the possibility of upgrades for existing end customers with an older generation of WHALE control panels
- It is extremely compact (around 135x75mm) featuring a LED indicator with simple icons that are very easy to use and intuitive
- It features a contemporary design that also matches with other CBE products installed on motorhomes and caravans

"For CBE, this project was different from the ones we normally deal with, i.e. the development of complete electrical systems and electronics for motorhomes," states Paolo Moiola, export manager at CBE, "but not of lesser importance or less intriguing. Strategically, CBE considers it important to not only reaffirm our role as an expert in anything related to electrics and electronics in the caravanning industry, but also to go beyond and expand our presence in the UK market, where WHALE has an important and growing market share. Last but not least, this project is the result of an excellent and highly beneficial working partnership with the technical and sales teams at both WHALE and CBE."



CBE has a new Internet site

As of 1 December 2015, CBE's new website is online at www.cbe.it. The site aims to provide clear communicability and immediacy of use. Published in Italian and English, it is divided into two macro areas: a space dedicated to standard products, and one to custom products. The formula of two separate sites (one for the aftermarket and another for OEMs) is thus being abandoned by unifying communications into a single platform that provides a better understanding of the CBE universe. The "custom products" area provides an overview of the many services and products CBE offers OEMs in the field of electrical wiring and customization of 12V and 230V systems, while the area pertaining to standard products is divided into five distinct sections: Solar System (the area dedicated to free energy components); New Technology

(consisting of electrical and electronic components on motorhomes); Modular Plates (a production line dedicated to switches, sockets and frames in modular design and different colors); Modular Plates Berker (the line of Berker switches, sockets and frames for which CBE is the distributor in Italy); Energy Line (providing everything that's required on an RV in terms of power systems and batteries). The new website provides compatibility with any mobile device and is perfectly responsive.

