



## **CL-BUS** the future is today

Following its preview at the Caravan Salon in Düsseldorf last year, the new range of products with LIN BUS connection system developed and produced by CBE have stopped being "concepts" and become standard components on some premium motorhome ranges.

*Words Andrea Cattaneo*



On the right:  
PL50

tation area in RVs, such as 12v distribution boxes, control panels, chargers, probes and lighting management nodes. It has now developed a very advanced project: the CL-BUS (CBE LIN BUS).

"It took us longer than expected to propose the new range of CL-BUS products to our customers," says Paolo Moiola, co-CEO of CBE. "On the one hand, we had to redesign and engineer all the components that make up the systems, and on the other, we wanted to carry out long and thorough testing. The OEMs have rewarded us by adopting our systems because, above all, they consider them reliable. Our product had to be technologically contemporary yet offer the end user a real advantage when using and managing the motorhome's electrical system. The difference between CBE and its competitors does not lie in technology, as we all use the same protocol, but in the ease of use that we have

In an increasingly connected world, it is inevitable that the recreational vehicle sector evolves with an increasing diffusion of systems able to communicate with each other, external equipment and other devices. CBE manufactures 12v and 230v electrical systems for the habi-



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CBL18

developed for our products and in the reliability and quality demonstrated over time,"

continued Paolo Moiola. The CL-BUS range was created to be able to accommodate additional features that could be introduced at a later date in the future without the motorhome manufacturer having to change product codes. The objective of the project is the desire to provide a flexible system that can connect with any on-board equipment, leaving the OEMs the maximum freedom to choose which systems or devices shall communicate with each other.

CBE joined the CI-BUS platform that was developed in 2011 in conjunction with the CIVD (the German Caravanning Industry Association).

"In general, motorhome manufacturers have shown us they are well aware of the imminent evolution of connectivity, even if we are still at an early stage in this new technological generation," said Dorian Sosi, co-CEO of CBE. "So far, collaborations between companies are limited compared to the potential. Even CBE, despite developing this new range, still cannot have a complete view of all the possibil-



Above: DL40

On the right:  
Paolo Moiola and Dorian Sosi

ities of an interconnected system. And our product development is never finished because our system is constantly evolving, especially on the software side," he continued.

CBE will continue to produce its range of standard products; indeed, it expects that, for a few more years, most sales will be from more traditional technologies because the CL BUS system still costs more than the traditional products. But the revolution has started and CBE has immediately identified its priorities in this "connectivity challenge": to create efficient, reliable, durably designed products that are technologically advanced, always being updated and capable of transmitting data with any current and future systems. But that is not all. In addition to the simplicity of repairs, offered by CBE through a professional service and sales network who helps to avoid to spoil the customer's holidays, an APP has been developed for system analysis and programming. The APP is supplied to the manufacturer's technicians as a work tool, but the system can also be used in areas such as the customer assistance network.

## Milestones

- **1976** - CBE is founded by the former co-owner and CEO Bruno Conci, who started out in the caravanning industry manufacturing electrical systems and electronic devices for local manufacturers Laverda and VS Caravan. Just 2 years later the company launches the first LED control panel for motorhomes.
- **1982** - First attendance at the Turin show (now in Parma)
- **1985** - First attendance at the Essen show (now in Düsseldorf)
- **1987** - First attendance at the Paris show
- **1990** - CBE moves to a new 1000 m<sup>2</sup> factory (Lamar/Trento)
- **1994** - First LCD control panel for motorhomes
- **2003** - CBE obtains UNI EN ISO 9001 certification. Constantly increasing turnover leads CBE to purchase a 4500 m<sup>2</sup> field where the current Spini/TRENTO premises – at that time 2800 m<sup>2</sup> – are located.
- **2008** - First touchscreen control panel for motorhomes.
- **2009** - CBE decides to invest strategically on the direct manufacture of wiring harnesses and takes over LCE, a consolidated company in that industry located in Arco/Trento.
- **2011** - A new production facility (still in Arco/TRENTO), spanning more than 1500m<sup>2</sup>, is made available to LCE. CBE strengthens and expands its production capacity in the wiring harnesses industry with the start-up SCT, based in Solimar/Tunisia,
- **2014** - Expansion of the factory in Spini/TRENTO (with the work completed mid-2015), creates a further 1000 m<sup>2</sup> dedicated mainly to additional test laboratories and storage areas.
- **2016** - CBE creates the simulation testing lab, a laboratory that allows the functional simulation of all CBE systems in combination with appliances and electrical utilities typically installed on recreational vehicles.
- **2018** - DexKo Global Inc. (through its subsidiary AL-KO) signs an agreement in July which has led to the acquisition of CBE.

