

Expanding Trento headquarters

CBE Group's main headquarters is growing. It will gain a new technical laboratory for simulations and testing electronic components, equipment for the graphical customization of plastics, and an additional capacious fully equipped warehouse

Words Antonio Mazzucchelli



Bruno Conci, CEO of CBE



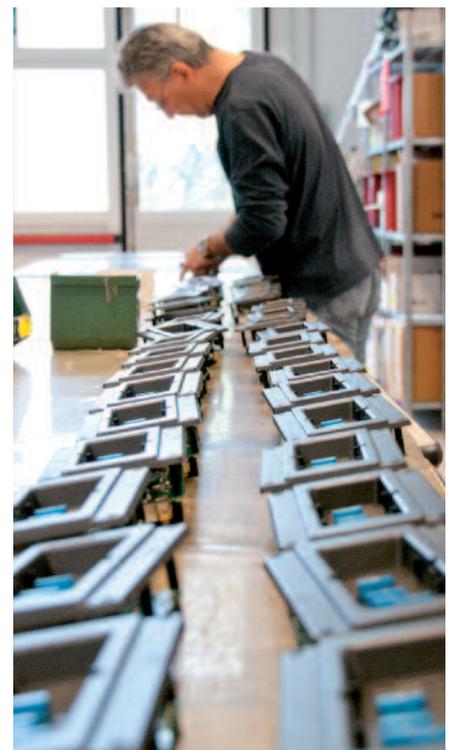
CBE keeps expanding. The group is optimizing its workflows and warehousing logistics and further enhancing its professional service for OEM customers through personalized testing and simulation stations.

Obtained by adding a storey to the Trento factory, the new operational area spans 1000 sq m (10,750 sq ft). 60% will be used for warehousing and the rest as a technical lab for testing and inspecting CBE's electronics products on custom-designed simulation stations. The testing department's new facilities will include a third cutting-edge in-circuit test machine. Also planned are a department for painting and personalizing plastics and a packing area.

"Our headquarters-expansion project had been on the agenda for some time," comments CBE CEO Bruno Conci. "In this market phase, customers have changed tack. They do not want their goods stuck in a warehouse; they order at the last minute; and, naturally, they expect superb-quality products. To offer an even more comprehensive service, we have decided to install fixed testbeds dedicated to personalizing products to our

customers' specific requirements. These stations directly simulate installations on recreational vehicles, enabling us not only to test each product easily but also to respond swiftly and agilely to any requests for change. The stations are at our customers' disposal for as long as it takes to complete their project".

The new storage facility is designed not only to meet legal standards but also to be environmentally friendly. It extensively uses wood from certified forests and highly effective insulating panels. The wood walls are 120 mm thick, insulated with ecofriendly Fermacell gypsum fibreboard sheets, and



CBE milestones

1976 - CBE Srl, based in the north of Italy, is established by the current owner and managing director Mr. Bruno Conci. He starts his work in the caravanning industry producing electric systems and electronic devices with a company employing 4-5 people.

1990 - CBE moves to the new premises in Lamar di Gardolo, 83 (Trento), bought with a leasing contract and still owned by the company. In this period CBE owns 1000 m² for the production line and offices.

2000 - CBE is UNI EN ISO 9001 certified

2003 - Steady increase in turnover translates into CBE's decision to buy a land lot of over 4500 m² where the new premises are built (over 2800 m²)

2009 - CBE buys out the majority share of LCE, a company specialised in the production of wiring harnesses based in Arco di Trento (Italy), less than 40 Km from CBE's main premises. The LCE controlled company owns a total area of 900 m².

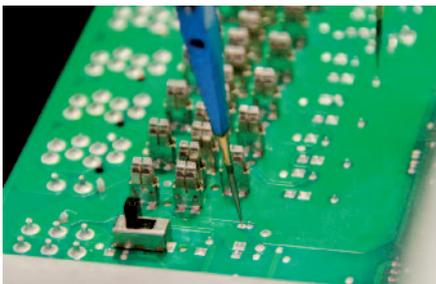
2011 - CBE starts building a new building for LCE which will be completed and running by the end of the year with an overall surface of 1500 m².

CBE improves and extends its production capacity in the wiring industry starting SCT, a new company based in Tunisia in the Soliman district, near Hammamet.

CBE purchases a new Flying Probe machine for electronic circuits testing which can carry out more precise and rapid tests.

2012 - CBE inaugurates the new plant of LCE in Arco (Trentino) dedicated to the manufacture of wiring harnesses and with a total surface area of 1,500 m².

Today, CBE holds a share of approximately 30% of the European market and supplies more than 20,000 motorhomes per year with its electrical and electronic equipments. More than 85% of its turnover derives from exports.



very important for us, too," continues Bruno Conci. "We shall be able to paint the plastics and, moreover, offer pad printing – to print words, logos and all kinds of symbols, even in colour, on any regular or irregular surface. We shall take plain buttons, frames and modules and print labels on them ourselves, without having to discard ready prepared plastics just because an icon, a word or some other detail has changed. And we shall be able to customize our products for motorhome and caravan manufacturers even further, offering switches, controls and sockets with dedicated symbols and graphics".

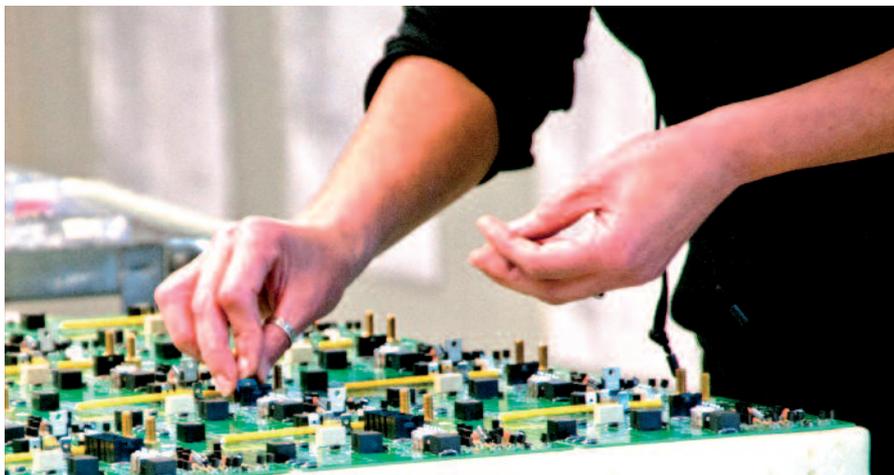
The new warehouse has a broad access ramp for lorries to unload. All the necessary raw materials will be stored in the new 400-sq-m area, which will also have a mezzanine floor. The existing warehouse will hold finished products only – those coming in from affiliate group companies or external suppliers as well as those made in the Trento factory.

"Actually," continues Bruno Conci, "we had already planned to raise the building in 2000. Unfortunately, though, the anti-sei-

smic legislation has become more stringent since. After the earthquake in Emilia Romagna, to meet the new standards, we had to do extra work on the existing warehouse, digging down to reinforce the foundations. Now we have a truly earthquake-resistant HQ, but the costs were significant and forced us to delay this project slightly".

they have an air space and a 100-mm outer covering. The roof, too, has been meticulously insulated. It has double (inner and outer) boarding, air ventilation, and 100 mm of insulation. More photovoltaic panels will be fitted to the roof, adding 30 kW to the existing 20 kW power-generation capacity, enabling CBE to become self-sufficient in energy. The large triple-glazed north-facing windows in the testing and laboratory area provide excellent daytime lighting. There is also a large tank collects rainwater, which will be used to water the lawn.

"The new graphical-customization facility is



Company Profile

With a history of more than 38 years, CBE is a leading company in Europe in the sector of electrical and electronic systems for recreational vehicles and boats. Based in Trento, CBE is a design partner for motorhomes and caravan manufacturers all over the world, drawing up personalised solutions which involve all aspects of the on board electrical systems: from control panels to distribution boxes, from battery chargers to tankprobes, sockets, switches, up to complete wiring of the vehicle. Quality, reliability and safety are constants in the way CBE -UNI EN ISO 9001:2000 certified- operates.

