

Multifunctional seating

The recent prototype of a seat that can be transformed into a bed has already become a system.

Dinette Sleep System is a complete and versatile product available in many versions. Manufacturing kicks off with a new plant for CTA

Words Renato Antonini



The excitement of the market was picked up by CTA driving them to field new projects and increase production. The Italian company, well known for their range of seat belt systems for motorhomes, presented the Dinette Sleep prototype, a seat that can be transformed into a bed, at the last edition of the Caravan Salon in Düsseldorf, and is now setting up a dedicated production line for it.

"With the positive market trend and the introduction of the new Dinette Sleep we needed to expand the production plant. This was a project we had in mind for some time", Ursula Scalia, Sales & Marketing Manager of CTA said. "We are currently busy moving to the new site that is scheduled to open at the end of 2021. It is not far from our current site in Pomezia, near Rome. The biggest change will be the surface area that will increase from the current 2,000 square metres to over 4,000 square metres. More specifically, 3,000 square metres of the plant will be dedicated to the production floor and 1,200 square metres to the warehouse. This is a big step forward for CTA and a very strategic one.

The cost of raw materials is estimated to increase on the market already this season.

This increase prompted us to take proactive steps to enhance our price and product competitiveness. The Italian National Plan stimulates companies to invest in Industry 4.0 solutions and we believe - now more than ever - that 'Research and Development 4.0' is the linchpin of competitiveness. Our plans at CTA is to introduce new automated machinery for metal bending and welding to achieve our production cost and time containment objectives. The result is to consolidate our competitive position and improve it. Updating the production process, supporting the entire organisation and the most recent studies devoted to

automated assembly processes are just some of the tools with which at CTA we want to meet the challenges of a changing market."

Dinette Sleep

Launched at the Düsseldorf Caravan Salon in September 2020, the Dinette Sleep attracted the interest of the public and especially that of vehicle manufacturers. The objective of the project - to improve vehicle safety and comfort - is simple and clear. To this end, a comfortable and safe seat is made available to manufacturers and end-users for use not only when travelling because it can double as ta-





Double dinette converting into a comfortable bed. The Dinette Sleep is made up of two tippers and headrest adjustable in height and is equipped with safety belts. The structure is tested in accordance with the current European standard.

Company Profile

A leader of the European recreational vehicle components market and boasting more than 40 years of experience, CTA designs and builds innovative solutions with the aim of improving safety and the comfort perceived inside the vehicle. The range of products includes: structures for safety belts, swivel plates for seats, TV/tablet brackets, ladders and luggage racks, comfort accessories for seats, all strictly Made in Italy. Some of the undisputed strengths of CTA branded products include versatility, reliability and light weight. CTA was the first manufacturer of anchoring structures for safety belts weighing just 12.5 kg, a generous 40% less than the lightest models available on the market. Today, it boasts an extensive range of structures which weigh just 8.5 kg for specific types of vehicles. These results were achieved thanks to ongoing investment in R&D, in the selection of innovative high-strength materials with increasingly low weights, and their use in the design of high-performance solutions, that are easy to install and simple to use. Quality, experience, creativity and staying constantly up-to-date, combined with passion and industry-specific skills allow CTA to partner with major European Original Equipment Manufacturers, with whom it devises customised projects that take into account all construction requirements, and provides technical support throughout every step of the development and launch of the product.

ble seating for lunch and as a comfortable bed. The conversion to obtain the bed is simple. The seat cushion and its supporting structure tilt by 180° while the back revolves downwards by 90°. The operation is quick and results in a comfortable sleeping mattress. Understandably, this operation does not create a bed of adequate size for an adult person. Two solutions are provided to make up for the missing 50-60 cm. You can simply combine another seat, such as the swivel seat in the cab, or you can opt for a more elaborate version of the Dinette Sleep incorporating a third element folded behind the backrest. This element, once opened, creates a standard length bed. The Dinette Sleep has M1 type-approval and was tested following R14, R16 and R17 directives.

Light and versatile

Particular attention was dedicated to the weight factor. Considering the structure alone, complete with belt attachments but without the support base or the padding, the single backrest version weighs less than 32 kilograms and the double backrest version comes in at about 35 kilograms. The complete seat, with padding, can weigh around 50 kilograms. The width of 102 centimetres was chosen as the best compromise.

Targeted primarily at the European market, the Dinette Sleep is designed primarily for campervans. However, application on motorhomes and other types of vehicles is by no means excluded. CTA is providing various assembly methods according to the chassis type. The upper structure of the sofa has one type-approval, while the lower parts have different approvals according to the anchorage method to the chassis.

"We want to ensure maximum system versatility and this is why, in addition to different types of base, we are supplying the Dinette Sleep with or without padding and with or without upholstery", Ursula Scalia said.

There are plans to further expand the range to make a bigger bed and XL version in the future. An "easy" version that will be more cost-effective without integrated seat belt body is also planned.

"We didn't stop at the initial idea. At CTA, we wanted to make a complete and articulated range of this product", Ursula Scalia said. "We called it the Dinette Sleep System range. There are currently four versions and the system is based on the different combination of two elements, specifically the base fixing method to the floor and the backrest. The base can be anchored to the vehicle floor or fixed on sliding rails. The backrest can be simple or double. In the second case, the Dinette Sleep can form a bed on its own, without using any additional external elements".

The range



DESCRIPTION
Dinette Sleep: 2 seats dinette - flat sleeping
Dinette Sleep: sliding 2 seats dinette - flat sleeping
Dinette Sleep: 2 seats dinette with double backrest - complete sleeping
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