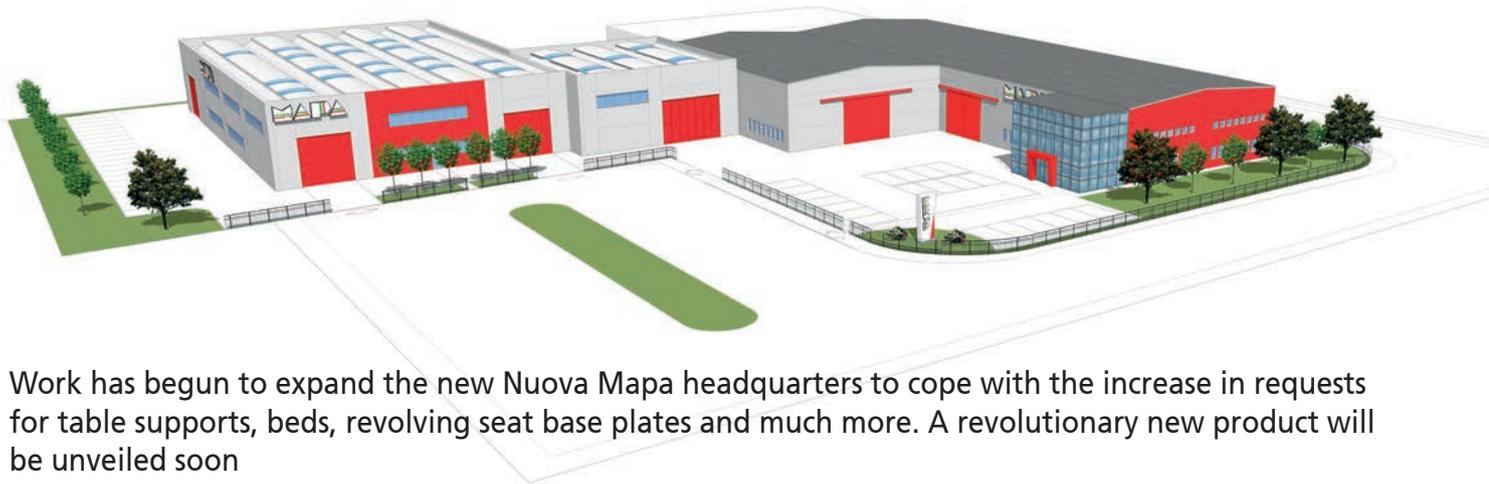


New projects and new ideas



Work has begun to expand the new Nuova Mapa headquarters to cope with the increase in requests for table supports, beds, revolving seat base plates and much more. A revolutionary new product will be unveiled soon

Words Renato Antonini

There is turmoil at Nuova Mapa's headquarters in Altedo, Italy. Structures and machinery are growing in the scope of an evolutionary process needed to manage the pressing demands of the market. Strong of the good results achieved with the table supports and beds that are the Italian company's two major products, Nuova Mapa experienced an increase of turnover even in 2020, despite the pandemic, continuing the successful streak that started a few years ago.

"Our business has grown constantly and so we decided to expand the company, to work better and face the future with more confidence", Davide Maini, CEO of Nuova Mapa said.

"Actually, this evolutionary process started last year, but we had to put it on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are now back on track and expect to complete the expansion phase in just over a year. First

of all, we will double of the production spaces, passing from the current 2000 sqm + 200 sqm of the external hub dedicated to semi-finished products, to the new 4000 sqm indoor area, on a total surface of more than 15000 sqm of property. This will allow us to organise the assembly, warehouse and R&D departments better. We are also doubling the number of machines, introducing high-tech equipment, some automatic and others robotic. For instance, we are adding a second new welding robot and will soon be introducing a further fibre laser cutting system with automatic loading and unloading capabilities".

The investment will be used to develop new projects and to better manage the consolidated product line. Today, Nuova Mapa makes entrance steps, revolving cab seat base plates, ladders, parking feet and much more, but its greatest commitment is to table supports and beds. The company is active only in the RV sector, with over 67% of

production destined for export (Europe and Australia). With experience and next-generation machinery, paired with a research and development department, most of the production process is managed within the company, ensuring a great dynamism, and constant quality control of the final product.

Tables and beds

Table supports, consisting of a base and the tabletop shifting system, account for a significant percentage of Nuova Mapa's business. Nuova Mapa is one of the few European companies to make this type of product. So far, about 152000 pieces have been manufactured. The shifting system that supports the tabletop is a fine piece of equipment that allows the various movements (longitudinal, transversal and 360° rotation). It is equipped with a light but sturdy mechanism, for which aesthetically pleasing aluminium (not iron) profiles are



Electric beds in the showroom

Left: the table with the handy movement system



Company profile

An Italian company founded by Enrico Maini in 1963, Nuova Mapa started off working for the auto industry, progressively moving into the RV sector during the late '80s, with the production of luggage racks and steps. Since 2001, Nuova Mapa has been operating for the RV sector exclusively, and has progressively specialized in the manufacturing of table supports, electric beds, removable steps and swivel seats. Located in Altedo, in the vicinity of Bologna, the current production site covers an area of 2,500 sq. m, employing around 20 people. The processing of metals and manufacturing of various products is for the most part carried out in-house and self-sufficiently, without relying on outsourcers, except for heat treatments, galvanizing and paint jobs. Within Italy, Nuova Mapa directly ships out and delivers its products. All of these factors yield extreme flexibility and speed in production, providing benefits for customers. Currently, about 30% of production remains in Italy, while the remaining 70% is exported within Europe, and partly to Australia.



Left: a robot for welding telescopic table supports, revolving seat base plates, and parking feet

Below: a 3000-watt fibre laser-cutting system, 1500 x 3000 size, with automatic loading and unloading, working 24 hours a day



Company truck for delivering product



CNC bending machine: two systems, one of which equipped with bending robot

used. The shifting system incorporates the extension flap support (a feature that is increasingly in demand) and has a single convenient control handle. All the movements can be carried out with just one handle on the edge of the table. *"For us, it is all about strength, practicality and solidity, together with good looks. These are the primary aspects that characterise all our projects"*, said the CEO of Nuova Mapa. As far as the table support is concerned, traditional or telescopic legs are available, with a round or square section, in various colours and with chrome or plastic-coated finish. The table support with an electric telescopic central leg is interesting. It can be raised and lowered electrically, simply by pressing a button. A manual version is also available. This is foot-operated using a control placed at the base. Since 2014, Nuova Mapa has also been involved in the production of electrically operated beds, with the Flat model standing out for its extremely limited footprint. The bed moves on a system of belts and is characterised both by being slim and having a completely flat bottom. In just over 9 centimetres, it successfully encloses everything you need: mattress, support structure and electric motor. The attached motor avoids encumbering the wall unit underneath. A new integrated folding roof lifting system for the campervan market is slated to be presented soon. Once again, Nuova Mapa confirms its ability to offer new solutions capable of offering comfort to users and sales arguments to manufacturers.

Revolutionary table

Nuova Mapa's experience with tables for the RV sector is remarkable and will soon result in a revolutionary new product for campervans. The project is already at an advanced stage of development. It will certainly be launched at the 2021 edition of the Caravan Salon in Düsseldorf but a preview for a selected number of operators may be organised already in the upcoming weeks.

"During the difficult phase of the pandemic, we worked hard on new projects and we developed a new table concept", said Davide Maini, CEO of Nuova Mapa. *"It is intended for campervans, the product that most attracts the public today in Europe and the American market. I cannot give anything away just yet, the product is still being tested and perfected, but I can anticipate that it is a variable surface table, very small when not needed, to take up the smallest possible space, but able to turn into a large dining table whenever needed. It will obviously be offered with different types of finishes, to adapt to different styles and different price ranges of the vehicle"*.