



New automatic press LWRT

A partner for developing cutting-edge solutions

The opening of a new production line reasserts the aim of Ama Composites to invest in innovative materials and techniques capable of developing cutting-edge solutions, partly carried over from the automotive sector and to be a valuable partner for RV manufacturers

Words Renato Antonini



Scratch resistant painting on RTM parts

A new production line has been started at the Ama Composites plant for moulding LWRT (Light Weight Reinforced Thermoplastic) parts. The new machinery had increased the potential production capacity of the company three-fold putting it in the position to increase its presence in the RV sector and to address the transport vans, buses and commercial vehicle industry as well. Several years ago, Ama Composites

set itself the clear and ambitious objective to experiment with new technologies, sometimes carrying them over from one sector to another, to bring innovation and provide solutions that overcome the limits of traditional processing. The Italian company has been working successfully for some time now in various fields, including the RV sector. With super-insulating materials, LWRT technology, integration of radiant elements in the clad-



ding, Ama Composites offers a wide range of products for construction systems and RV interiors alike. Either way, the company is equipped to help customers find the right way to reach their goals one that may not always be the most obvious but that can achieve unexpected goals by breaking with tradition.

"We dare to take risks, experiment with new ways and the ability to engineer new solutions with accurate and reliable processing", said Ama Composites CEO Marco Corradini. *"Ama Composites aims to be a creative and competent partner capable of solving various types of problems, with a curiosity for new technologies and the know-how to industrialise production processes, both on a small and large scale. I would like to invite the companies that do not know us yet to contact us because our cutting-edge technologies can offer more efficient, convenient and alternative ways to achieve their results."*

Ama Composites has recently stepped into a particular field, namely that of pop-up roofs applied to camper vans and roof-top tents. The production of roof-top tents, for which there is a great demand in various markets, is well underway in the new Ama Composites factory in Eastern Europe. The structure and protective shell of the roof-pop tents are built using GRIT (Glass Resin Impregnated Thermoplastic) technology. A project is ready to mass-produce a pop-up roof for installation on the vehicles that are be-

"We can offer more efficient, convenient and alternative ways to achieve results"

coming increasingly more successful in the European market in the wake of the strong demand for camper vans. In both cases, the structure integrates an inner cladding made of LWRT (either soft or semi-rigid according to the chosen weight) and even a heating system with radiant elements, using the Amatherm technology developed by Ama Composites. A new scratch-resistant paint that is remarkably durable, good-looking and resistant to UV radiation and salt spray is available for the outer coating of the pop-up roof. By applying new technologies to the production of pop-

up roofs, Ama Composites can achieve a weight reduction of at least 25% compared to traditional technologies.

"We started working in the RV sector in 2006.

A lot has changed since then, but I think the RV manufacturing world still needs innovative materials and techniques to grow", Marco Corradini concluded. *"Ama Composites has dedicated considerable resources to R&D. We are always looking for new solutions: some of them can give the RV sector lighter and better-performing products, with a careful eye on costs."*



Marco Corradini



LWRT+ABS Interior

Over 20,000 parts per year

Unquestionably, the camper van segment is the one in which Ama Composites is currently most involved in the RV sector. For about three years now, the company has been supplying convincing solutions to several European manufacturers exploiting its experience in the Light Commercial Vehicle sector. LWRT technology is mainly used to make moulded elements, very often paired with thermoformed ABS elements, for internal wall cladding, perfectly adapting to the non-planar shapes of the vans used as a base (Fiat Ducato and others). Products include rear sleeping area cladding panels, side sliding door and hinged rear door covering and finishing elements, and moulded panels for covering the wheel arches. Ama Composites has been able to work for leading European companies in the camper van sector. Production in this area is currently around 20,000 units per year and there is interest in a possible expansion of production to the compact mini-van segment with and without pop-up roofs. It is important to note that elements made with LWRT technology have several advantages because they are light and strong, easily washable and mould-proof. They can also be paired with other materials for insulation (acoustic and thermal) and finishing.



RTM positioning / gluing template