

Internal roof and wall cladding  
with LWRT technology

# Thinking for the future with advanced solutions

AMA Composites is expanding its range of LWRT technology solutions and trying out new recycled materials, as well as introducing a range of wiring harnesses for the RV sector

Words Renato Antonini

**A**MA Composites is increasing its profile in the RV sector with a diversified offering featuring composites, new technologies and recycled materials. But it is also leveraging its synergies with the AMA Group to launch new product ranges, including wiring harnesses. In recent years, AMA Composites has experienced its greatest successes with LWRT (Light Weight Reinforced Thermoplastic) materials, which it supplies to a number of European RV builders. LWRT components are lightweight - up to five times lighter than the same parts made with conventional thermoforming - and also feature integrated surface coverings, as well as thermal insulation where appropriate. Wiring harnesses and heating systems can be incorporated into the parts during fabrication. This enables the RV builder to use pre-assembled parts, produced industrially to the highest quality. The result is faster assembly and a far lower risk of errors in the build.



Underside of the bed  
with LWRT technology



**Trying out new recycled materials**

When it comes to environmental sustainability, AMA Composites is currently assessing the use of new materials. The company is trying out recycled polypropylene for rigid and semi-rigid parts. For the integrated coverings, it is evaluating recycled fabrics, felts, materials of vegetable origin and the recycling of industrial wool waste.

*“The recycled materials we’re trying out are niche products,”* says Marco Benatti, Product Manager, AMA Composites; *“they’re recycled at source and are also recyclable in the future, which is a milestone in terms of environmental sustainability.”*

The company has converted one of its machines specifically to test these new products. This is not an insignificant investment, but the company is fully committed to exploring such new options for sustainability.

**The many uses of LWRT**

*“When we entered the RV sector in 2006, we set ourselves an ambitious objective,”* says Marco Corradini, CEO, Ama Composites: *“to bring the advanced technologies already in use in the automotive industry into the motorhome and campervan sector. Today we can say that we have achieved this objective. Many companies are now using our products, and our offering of solutions is always growing. We make structural components of all sorts with high technology materials, and we’re also equipped to handle large production runs. Light weight, high performance, excellent thermal insulation and high quality finishes - these are the focus of our R&D efforts.”*

LWRT technology is used in both structural and non-structural components, pre-assembled parts with integrated interior coverings and thermal insulation, where appropriate. For in-



New automatic press LWRT

stance, the company has made front mouldings for single-body motorhomes. LWRT is widely used in campervan panels throughout the living compartment: the rear sleeping area, the cowling over the cab, and the sliding side doors and rear swing doors. They have also offered a number of options for pop-up roofs. And they also make covering panels for the lower section of motorhome and campervan drop-down beds. AMA Composites also offers special systems for insulating and heating the floor panel. It is collaborating with Italian company Palomar in this area of its business. As for living compartment heating solutions, Ama Composites is continuously refining its use of JESS conductive heating membrane. This is a very thin multi-layer membrane which can be shaped in any way and runs off DC power. It can be installed in the floor, walls or ceiling.

**RV wiring harnesses**

AMA Composites is also now offering wiring harness solutions for the

RV sector. The company offers a wide range of systems, from simple to extremely complex, for installation in motorhomes and campervans. This new segment of its business has been made possible by its synergies with the other companies in the AMA Group. AMA Composites is just one of the many divisions of the AMA Group, which employs 1,300 people in 18 plants around the world. The Group has been making wiring harnesses and control instrumentation (for control panels, among others) for forty years, with a focus on the OHV (Off Highway Vehicles) sector, which covers agricultural equipment, earthmoving equipment and even small quads. *“Our collaboration with the Group’s other divisions is very advantageous for us,”* says Marco Benatti, *“and at the present time we’re focusing on wiring harnesses. In doing so we are working with a large plant in Sarajevo, Bosnia, which has a workforce of 150. We’ve started supplying these products to the RV sector, and it’s only the beginning of this new venture for us.”*



Wiring displays at the fair