

# Official world market leader

The company LAMILUX Composites GmbH is one of the most important suppliers to the caravanning industry of fibre-reinforced plastics as a top layer for sandwich elements in sheets or rolls. However, the title “Official World Market Leader” is not a trendy marketing slogan, but an official designation based on tangible facts

Words Peter Hirtschulz

**I**t is in fact awarded across all industries to globally active and successful companies with mostly leading technologies and outstanding quality of their products and services. The basis for the list of German world market leaders is the World Market Leader Index of the University of St. Gallen and the Academy of German World Market Leaders. LAMILUX Composites is listed as a leader in its sector and thus made it to the “500 secret world market leaders 2021”. The decisive factors were the number of employees, turnover, export share and the scope of global sales. Accordingly, LAMILUX achieved the highest turnover in the company’s history in 2021 despite the continuing

challenges of the corona pandemic and a tense raw material situation. The number of employees was increased by 5 percent. Meanwhile, more than 1,250 employees of the family-owned company generate a turnover of 335 million euros.

The caravanning industry is of particular importance. For this industry, LAMILUX produces special fibre-reinforced plastics based on polyester and epoxy resin, which are used as topcoats in various applications. The fibre-reinforced plastics are used in sidewalls, roofs, doors, in the floor, as bending applications, as a non-slip floor for rear garages or as interior wall cladding. Thanks to composite products, motor

homes and caravans benefit from an enormously high resistance to external influences of all kinds. They support the best possible functionality in the area used and also offer a wide range of attractive and unusual design and colour variants.

Leading recreational vehicle manufacturers worldwide rely on LAMILUX Composites and their GRP products, which are significantly more resistant to corrosion and hail than aluminium. They have excellent UV and strong weather resistance due to a special „Gelcoat“ coating. Repairs are also easier than with metal-based elements. An important fact is the low GRP weight combined with high mechanical



strength. Compared to other construction materials, composite products offer excellent surface properties and the possibility of subsequent painting with a huge range of colours up to metallic colours for a variety of applications. The use of composite products in recreational vehicles ranges from hail-resistant roof elements, exterior and interior side walls, furnishing panels to floor elements that also have anti-slip coatings. All LAMILUX products guarantee high durability, weighty lightness, enormous stability and a noble appearance.

The complete outer shell of motorhomes and caravans can be assembled from plastics except for the area of the edge profiles. The vehicle benefits particularly from the advantages of the composite materials. Due to its very good UV, weather and corrosion resistance as well as resistance to hailstorms, GRP is suitable as an external layer especially in the roof area. In addition, GRP is an ideal material for bending applications in small radii, such as the alcove. This simplifies the construction of the roof considerably. The low weight per unit area combined with high stability ensures that GRP has a very high lightweight construction potential. Lightweight construction is playing an increasingly important role in the vehicle industry, above all because the reduction of CO2 emissions and fuel consumption is being pushed. Elements made of fibre-reinforced plastics help to keep the weight of the vehicle as low as possible.

A wide range of colours of glass-fibre reinforced plastics is not only advantageous for the exterior, but also for the design of the interior. The interior can be individually designed with GRP, as LAMILUX Composites is customised in terms of decor, design and finish. With a decorative PVC surface, the interior

walls of a recreational vehicle become a visual highlight and also prevent mould and corrosion.

GRP not only shines on the interior walls of an RV, but also provides an individual look to the floor. The light weight of GRP, for example with the LAMILUX Composite Floor, saves unnecessary weight in the floor material and increases the stability of the vehicle. Moisture, heat and dirt take their toll on conventionally installed floor laminates over time. The Composite Floor from LAMILUX is the smart solution to such problems in RVs. Here, the PVC top layer is directly incorporated into the composite material and inseparably bonded to the substrate. The direct connection of the PVC to the fibre-reinforced carrier material of LAMILUX means that there is no need for an additional adhesive layer, again saving weight and labour.

With LAMILUX Anti Slip, LAMILUX offers a fibreglass-reinforced laminate with an abrasion-resistant anti-slip coating. This property is particularly advantageous for a floor in the cargo area or as a ramp of a motor home. With LAMILUX Composites, damage caused by luggage sliding around and the resulting damage can be avoided. In addition, LAMILUX Gewebe is suitable as an underbody material to prevent damage from stone chips.

As the world's first manufacturer of fibre-reinforced plastics, LAMILUX has a large part of its laboratory and testing facilities voluntarily inspected and certified by TÜV Süd Germany. LAMILUX products are intensively accompanied by the in-house research and development department in all phases of the development, production and life cycle. To ensure dura-



bility and longevity, extensive material tests and analyses form the basis for checking the properties of the composites and guaranteeing their quality 100 percent.

In the B2B sector, LAMILUX supplies composite products in different versions depending on customer requirements. Sheets with a thickness of 0.3 mm to 5.0 mm are possible. In addition, and widths of up to 3.20 metres as well as lengths of up to 12 metres or as rolls of up to 300 metres are available. The colour spectrum ranges from RAL, NCS, translucent, dual colour, to metallic or customised as fibre structure, fabric structure, high gloss, matt, decor, dual colour, smooth, corona treated and roughened.

While the automotive industry is suffering from supply bottlenecks in some areas, LAMILUX is proud to be less or hardly affected. The customer- and service-oriented company operates with foresight and always has a sufficient stock of basic materials to meet all customer requests and orders and its reputation as the "official world market leader".



Above: LAMILUX Composite Floor

Left: LAMILUX Anti Slip

