



Ready for recreational automotive 4.0

Thanks to the results achieved, CTA is getting ready to face the future at best: the new headquarters, with a production plant that will allow to triple production and improve product quality, are almost completed

Words Renato Antonini

New prestigious automated headquarters nearing completion, new hires and, in general, an undeniable qualitative leap in line with the demanding needs of the recreational vehicle market: this is CTA's program for the 2021-2022 period. The company, a reference for restraint systems for seat belts and other compo-

nents for recreational vehicles, is now ready to face the future thanks to its long experience and focus on innovation. According to Dario Bellezze, General Manager of the company, *"the new plant will have an area of over 10,000 square meters, 4,200 of which covered, with one floor entirely devoted to production where 30 em-*

ployees will work".

The production is lean-oriented and all possible improvement technologies have been implemented. The organization, workflows, client service management, as well as an expanded sales network and a technical department of excellence: these are the key elements of the new company structure that will allow high-level performance, increasing the already excellent quality of the product.

"We produce on average about 3,500 - 4,000 units per month - continues Dario Bellezze - and, in the last year, we have also specialized in laboratory testing, in order to optimize the relation between functionality, strength and weight of our components. In the new plant, designed to triple production, we will have two series production lines and one for customized products and small batches, all equipped with the latest technologies". The 2021-2022 period will also be devoted to corporate training: *"Finding skilled manpower - concludes Dario*



A rendering of the new CTA plant



Bellezza - has become a serious problem. For this reason we are organizing courses on Industry 4.0 for all staff in collaboration with world-class partners, such as the Department of Computer Engineering and Automation of the Sapienza University of Rome, thanks to a national collaboration agreement signed with 'A come Azienda', one of CTA's partners".

"CTA has invested a lot and firmly believes in innovation", says Eng. Alessandro Polidoro, CTA's trusted Project Manager, "every innovation opportunity has been carefully considered and evaluated, and all suitable methodologies and technologies have been acquired or are in the process of being acquired and implemented. Considerable emphasis has also been placed on top-bottom training as well as on LEAN and quality-oriented process improvement. Despite all the



forward-thinking, the company is also rooted in its tradition, with a know-how built in over 45 years of activity". And it is precisely by respecting its traditions that CTA is paving the way for what is coming next. Tradition and Innovation 4.0: a winning choice.

The latest developments at the Caravan Salon

The presence of CTA at the Caravan Salon in Dusseldorf highlights the company's international ambitions and its commitment to RV manufacturers. CTA continues to focus on and invest in its corporate mission: the improvement of safety and comfort inside the vehicle through practical, innovative and extremely low-weight solutions.

"Thanks to the successful presentation of the first prototype of Dinette sleep at the previous edition", explains Ursula Scalia, CTA's Sales Director, "this year we will be pleased to present a whole range of 2- or 3-seater dinette solutions that can be converted into a bed, fixed or floor sliding, with single or double flap to extend the bed or have a complete bed".

This new product range was developed with the aim of improving the "critical" points of a product already on the market. The first feature to be improved was the weight: with a weight of about 39 kg in the basic version, it is one of the lightest structures available on the market. Comfort is also of great importance and for this reason we created an ergonomic design with a mix of materials, such as hypoallergenic memory foam for the padding. Application versatility is also key: the new seating system is available in different sizes, heights and versions, meeting the application needs of motorhomes of various types, campervans



Standard kit for anchoring the seat belts of Fiat Ducato van

as well as mini campervans.

There are also many interesting new features for the aftermarket, such as the new standard seat belt anchor kits. "Our systems," continues Ursula Scalia, "which have been improved for years in the first plant, are used by many manufacturers who find them reliable, versatile, light and easy to apply. This motivated us to design a way for this flagship product to be simplified and marketed also in the aftermarket, giving those who want to renew their vehicle the opportunity to use a professional product compliant with the current regulations. This is how CTA's 'standard kits' were created. Indeed, thanks to these kits, end users can purchase a 'package' with everything they need to install the unit on their vehicle: upper structure, anchoring to the floor and screw kit. The standard CTA kits are currently available for Fiat Ducato, Citroen Jumper and Renault Master in different versions: front-facing, rear-facing (additional seat, where the mass allows) and face-to-face seating. The Isofix system is also available for seat installation on all front-facing units."

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 struc-

tures 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.



Ursula Scalia