

Black style, bright style



Growing orders from the RV sector are boosting business and Ofolux is launching a plan to expand its plant in Brunello. The Caravan Salon in Düsseldorf will be the opportunity to preview the 2023 season. Introducing the new Dark Light line and other interesting innovations

Words Renato Antonini, foto Enrico Bona



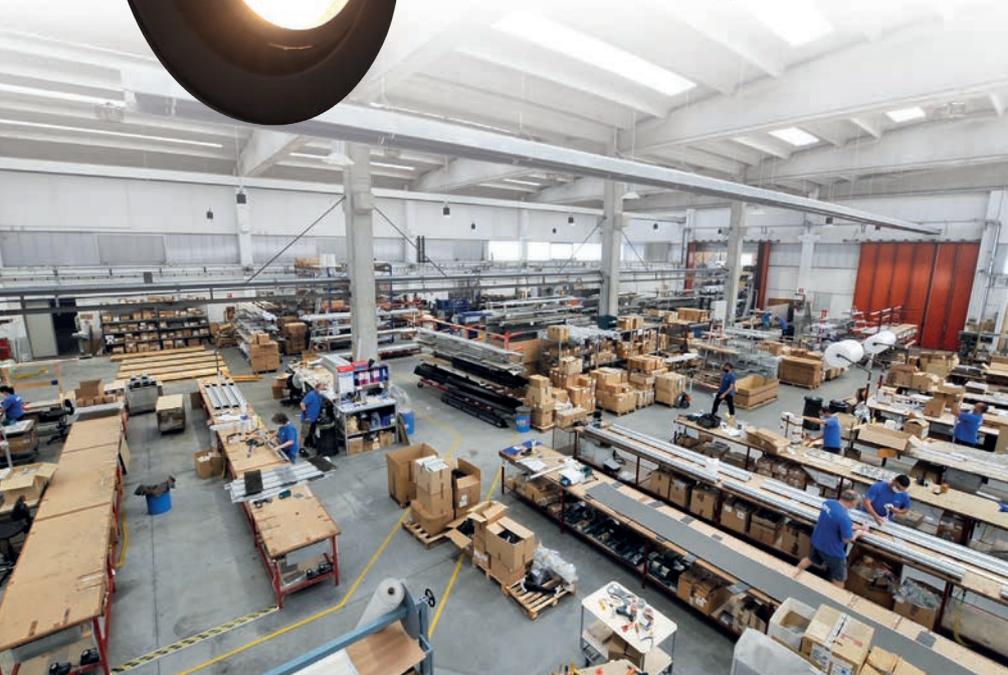
Elegant and trendy, the new Dark Light line from Ofolux explores the potentials of the colour black. The range was developed to meet the needs of manufacturers who, following the instructions of their designers, are creating interior settings where dark colours provide a pleasing contrast to light-coloured doors and upholstery. The new Dark Light range features several products, like spotlights that can be either fully recessed or provided with a projecting frame, which is black in this case. Other interesting products include adjustable spotlights with an articulated arm in two different heights and with a USB port in the base. The most striking product in the Dark Light range is the light profile designed to be fixed under wall cabinets or in other positions, such as the cockpit ceiling. When off it appears as a solid dark bar but

once switched on the black borders frame a central LED light strip.

"The new Dark Light line is the result of a study carried out by our technical department together with our extruded plastics supplier," explains Cristina Oblatore, who, together with her brother Luca, has been running the company founded by their father in the 1970s for many years now. *"We will be presenting the product in preview at the Caravan Salon in Düsseldorf. We are offering it as an alternative to the classic grey aluminium profiles to create a better contrast with the lighter hues that dominate many contemporary furnishing solutions."*

Magic sensors

The in-house R&D department of Ofolux has developed a new electronic touchless light switch. To turn a light on, the user can simply skim the light in the point where the remote sensor is installed. This new func-





tion is importantly applied in the light profiles above the kitchen counter when switching on the light without needing to touch a switch with dirty or wet hands like when preparing food is important.

Another one of Ofolux's innovations is also an infrared sensor, developed for special vehicle customers and now brought to the RV sector. Combined with the external light above the entrance door, a product is already included in the Ofolux range and with the addition of the sensor, it becomes even more practical because it switches on automatically when the user approaches the vehicle door in the dark. The considerable development of the camper van segment has prompted Ofolux to present innovations in this area as well. After all, Ofolux lighting systems have been appearing in motorhomes of several brands for some time now.

"We have developed flexible light strips specifically for the RV sector with built-in electrical circuit protection against overloads and short circuits", explained Andrea Emanuele, Key Account Manager Bus&RV at Ofolux. "This product is made in China to our design specifications and complies with stringent automotive standards." Ofolux is also planning a light strip for the upper part of the side panel above the sliding side door with the camper van segment in mind. It is a LED light strip enclosed in an aluminium profile with ABS end caps.

Growth and investment

The rapid development of new products was fostered by equipping the company's in-house design office with a prototype workshop.

"The 3D printer in our workshop means that we can make test models very fast", explained Luca Oblatore, owner of Ofolux together with his sister Cristina. "This allows us and our customer to have a precise

idea of the product so we can implement any changes before kicking off production."

The Ofolux technical laboratory can design electronic components and is always looking for new solutions. This is also useful at this stage when semiconductors are hard to come by. Ofolux has developed alternative solutions, designed different electrical circuits and extended the touch function to be ready for market demands.

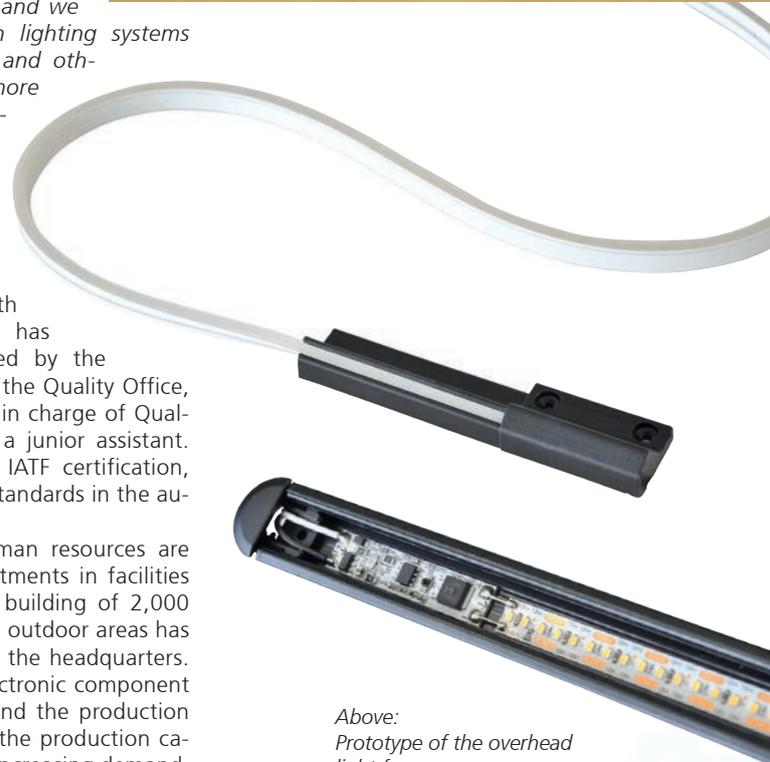
The activity of Ofolux in sectors other than that of RVs is also important, as Cristina Oblatore explained. "We have been operating in the automotive sector for over forty years and we have been working on lighting systems for buses, ambulances and other special vehicles for more than twenty. We are constantly transferring our experience to the RV sector, aiming for the high quality and safety required by the automotive sector."

The compliance with high-quality standards has been recently reaffirmed by the hiring of new people in the Quality Office, specifically a technician in charge of Quality & Environment and a junior assistant. Ofolux also setting up IATF certification, which refers to quality standards in the automotive sector.

The investments in human resources are complemented by investments in facilities and machinery. A new building of 2,000 square metres plus large outdoor areas has been purchased next to the headquarters. It will be used as an electronic component warehouse and to expand the production department, increasing the production capacity to meet the ever-increasing demand. The in-house machining department will also be expanded soon with the addition of a laser cutting machine to the CNC machining cell.



Cristina e Luca Oblatore



Above: Prototype of the overhead light for camper vans and detail of the sensor for touchless light switch system



Above: New warehouses as part of the expansion plan at Brunello (Varese)

On the left: Andrea Emanuele