



Palomar keeps the green direction



Palomar launches EcoSlab, a high-quality, high-performance sandwich panel virtuously made by recycling the company's own waste materials. Also on display at CSD 2021 is the tried and tested heated floor for motorhomes and caravans

Words and photo Enrico Bona

The Italian manufacturer of high-quality sandwich panels and semi-finished components for caravans and mobile homes is boosting its well-established eco-sustainable production with the introduction of a new recycling process of the company's own waste materials. Palomar is ISO 9001-certified and has always been focused on using renewable materials and energy. The company is not new to products made with recycled material, such as panels made from fibreglass scraps that offer major savings when used as an alternative to wood for making furniture, shower trays and kitchen components. Today, by establishing a partnership with a company specialising in the recovery of waste from a variety of production processes, Palomar can now recycle all of the waste resulting from the processing of large sandwich walls and can reintroduce recycled high-density polyurethane sheets into its production process. Importantly, polyurethane is a valuable material for RV construction and was strongly hit by the raw material crisis with rising prices.

"Palomar walls for recreational vehicles are made of two sheets – an inner sheet and an outer sheet – plus a layer of expanded polyurethane insulation", explained Anita

Nencioni, joint owner of Palomar with the Bagni and Giotti families. "Through this new recovery process, small and large cuts of material, such as doors and windows are returned into circulation instead of being thrown away. For customers, this virtuous process means an insulating material with extremely superior performance to polystyrene foam".

Like all raw materials, high-density polyurethane is seriously affected by raw material distribution policies of leading manufacturers and countries at this particular moment of time and this is causing the prices to skyrocket. "We are confident to have successfully solved the issue, at least in part. By optimising production, we guarantee our customers that their orders will be delivered complete and on time", Anita Nencioni added.

CSD 2021: EcoSlab and heated flooring

The polyurethane recycling process introduced by Palomar is the result of a partnership with an Italian com-

pany specialising in the recovery of large quantities of waste materials from industrial production. Not by chance, scrap is a significant percentage of the material suitable for recovery. Palomar sends the waste to the recycling centre, where the polyurethane is separated from the metals, ground in an isocyanate-based process and compacted into calibrated sheets of various thicknesses and sizes, having den-





sities ranging from 30-35 to 250 kg. "We conducted a long and thorough search to find the right technical partner. Then, we carried out numerous tests together," Anita Nencioni explained. "Today we have very high-quality raw material that is put back into circulation cost-effectively in the form of sandwich panels with recycled polyurethane foam insulation. This material is unquestionably superior performance to polystyrene foam and, in our case, has green added value".

Palomar can now reintroduce recycled high-density polyurethane sheets into the manufacturing process using raw material, in terms of waste, specifically processed for the company's needs. The sheets are 40, 80 and 120 mm thick and are not limited to new applications. They can be reused to produce numerous interior parts, including doors, front ends, overcab floors and garage floors. On demand, the recycled material can also be used to make the floors of the living pod itself. Palomar announces that samples are ready to be tested by cus-

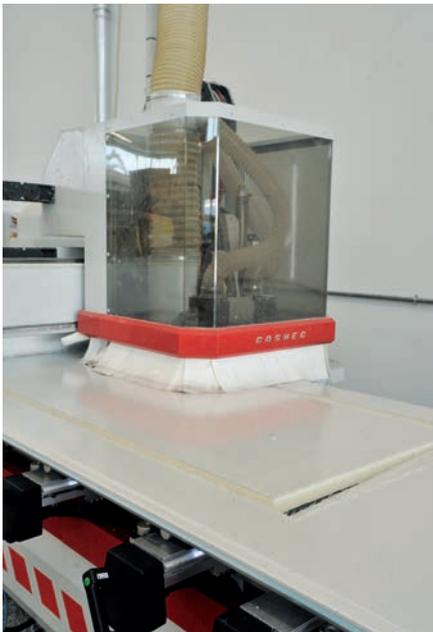
tomers and will be on display at the Caravan Salon 2021 in Düsseldorf, in the large booth space HALL13 STAND D14.

At the prestigious end-of-summer event in Germany, Palomar will also once again be focusing attention on the heated floor product that, in the words of Anita Nencioni, perhaps did not receive the recognition it deserves by manufacturers due to the small size of the CSD 2020. "We are relying on our presence at Caravan Salon 2021 because at Palomar we believe in our market and continue to invest in improving our products and internal processes. Implementing polyurethane foam waste recycling is a guarantee for the customer in terms of savings and definite delivery times, but also of the quality and technical performance of the material. With the trend of winter holidays in recreational vehicles steady growing, the heated floor is receiving very interesting feedback from select manufacturers and we are confident that it will find the market confirmation it deserves in Düsseldorf."

Company Profile

Located in Tuscany, the beating heart of the PleinAir industry, Palomar Srl is a leading company in the production of high-quality sandwich panels and semi-finished components for caravans and mobile homes. The company was founded in 2003 by the merger of three societies already present in the sector, headed by the Bagni, Giotti and Nencioni families and it's now lead by a team of young entrepreneurs, skilled staff and avantgarde machinery to satisfy its customers with its premium services.

Palomar comprehends four production sites, in the industrial area of Bassetto in Certaldo, for a total of about 10,000 square meters.



Anita Nencioni

Heated flooring

Developed in partnership with Ama Composites, the Palomar heated floor for motorhomes, caravans and mobile homes is designed to provide cosy warmth throughout the living pod. The customer can choose whether to heat the entire floor or only some areas, such as the bathroom.

The Palomar heated floor is based on the innovative Jess technology. The heat-conductive membrane produced by the Italian Ama Composites is coated with a thin polyester film that transforms electricity into thermal energy for superior comfort on-board.

The main advantages of the Palomar heat-

ed floor system are reliability, durability, safe 12V voltage, perfect integration in production lines, low costs, low consump-

tion, no fossil fuel combustion emissions and the possibility of piercing up to 70% of the total surface.

