

Winds of change

The winning technology for renewable energy with a low environmental impact



Donatella and Roberto Scarpa



This company, set up in 1967 by Dario Scarpa, enjoys continuous growth in terms of innovation, internationalisation and, as a result, turnover. We are talking about Ace Srl, an old family-run company which has now arrived at the third generation specialising in the production of electrical and electronic cabling connections for a range of industrial sectors. In the last two years, this company with its multiple certifications has added the study, design and production of micro – wind power generators to its core business indisputably focusing on the future. “At the beginning of the nineties, my brother Roberto and I started working in the company at a very young age” says Managing Director Donatella Scarpa - “Passion, perseverance and sacrifice have inspired our entire entrepreneurial journey. And I feel far more like an entrepreneur than a manager. An entrepreneur creates a company and sets everything in motion both within and outside the company and has a strong social responsibility towards the employees”. Among the fifty or so employees at Ace, are those who have been working in the company for 20-30 years thus, creating a sense of belonging to a family: “Here we have no temporary jobs yet everyone holds a strong conviction to share horizons and projects even in times of crisis. This is why we have grown by 35% compared to 2013 and already in the month of May this year we can confirm a growth forecast of a further 35%” says Donatella Scarpa. The big revolution for Ace goes back a couple of years when the company management came up with the idea of studying a 3 kW vertical micro -wind power generator called “Ecolibri” which was developed with the assis-

tance of universities, design firms and the in-house R&D department. “We have created a vertical wind power storage generator, namely with batteries designed for self powered energy production thus, distancing ourselves from the energy sales incentive concept”. In short, this generator produces according to demand. In effect, Ecolibri is unique starting from the materials used, such as aluminium for the wind blades and steel for the mechanical parts, making it suitable for all weather conditions. The absolutely innovative feature is the energy storage production, namely with lithium battery stations managed by inverters. The first plant was installed on the 20th of March 2015 in Chisinau in the Moldova Republic where Donatella Scarpa cut the inauguration ribbon together with the Italian Ambassador Enrico Nunziato and Dr. Stratan, Director of the Moldova Energy Agency. “After the inauguration in Italy, in June 2014, attended by the Director General of the Monza Brianza Chamber of Commerce and the President of the Provincia di Monza Brianza, it was decided to ask the exhibition authorities to display the Ecolibri micro generator in the gardens of the Villa Reale in Monza, the institutional offices of Expo 2015 due to its low impact on the environment and its design” explains Donatella Scarpa. Hence, the institutions recognised the value of this company, which by drawing on the energy of its own efforts, had created a hi-tech product using the economic back-up of its old core

business. But to whom is this innovation addressed? “The decision to produce stand-alone renewable energy was developed in-house to satisfy the ever greater energy demands from developing countries that don’t have an energy distribution network” confirms the Md adding: “We are dealing with countries outside Europe such as those in the Sub-Sahara with whom we have fruitful contacts. Above all, Ecolibri has been designed to satisfy the energy demands in agriculture, company services and public infrastructures as well as for providing back-up to airports and naval ports, tourist and mountain areas and in all those situations where self powered energy production is required”. We are dealing with a technology that in non-electrified countries can truly make a difference. Among the African areas that have given Ecolibri an enthusiastic welcome is Mozambique, where Ace was invited to the Polytechnic of Maputo to explain the design to the students. “Right here in Mozambique we signed an agreement for the distribution of Ecolibri over the entire national territory – points out Scarpa – and we’ll be participating at the Facim 2015 trade fair at the end of August with a prototype”. The upcoming strategic goals for Ace: other developing countries. Donatella Scarpa concludes: “Ace and Ecolibri are an example of Italian know-how and leading entrepreneurship in the Bel Paese, able to achieve excellent technological results in spite of any difficulties”.

An example of Italian know-how and leading entrepreneurship in the Bel Paese