

Joint Press release - 14th November 2005

New folding bicycle technology offers compact folding for full-sized bicycles

Ming Cycle, one of the top 10 global bicycle manufacturers, and MAS Design, UK based Engineering and Design company, have entered a technology transfer agreement. Ming Cycle take over the ownership of a revolutionary new folding bicycle technology, which includes extensive IPR and know-how. The technology allows bicycles with full sized wheels to be folded very quickly, without tools or dismantling, into very compact and portable sizes. Bicycles, with this technology will be launched in 2006.

Ming Cycle, produces 2 to 3 million bicycles a year. As well as being a 'top 10' bicycle maker, Ming is also in the top 3 folding bicycle producers with sales of over 200,000 folders last year. These include the innovative Strida3. As an OEM maker, Ming, produces bicycles for many brands including Mongoose, Carrefour, Decathlon, Jeep and Pacific.

MAS Design Products specialises in developing structural and folding products in the industrial, medical and consumer sectors, as well as bicycles. It has created many innovative patented products. These include the triangular Strida folding bike, one of the most innovative folding bikes with many awards and rapidly growing sales, especially in the Far East.

Ming Cycle' CEO and Chairman, Tai Shan Cheng says of the agreement "With this technology we will be able to offer our customers full sized folding bicycles, with performance identical to regular bicycles. These will have the added benefit of compact folding, like small wheeled bicycles. Apart from the folding mechanism, these bicycles use standard components. We can leverage our bicycle building expertise and buying power to produce a range of products that will appeal to all sectors of the market, as well as the growing specialist folding market".

MAS Design Director, Mark Sanders says of the agreement "Since designing the Strida 20 years ago I have watched the folding bicycle sector grow from a small, specialist 'enthusiast' sector, into one that in some countries (eg UK & Japan) has become a major movement. People are now seeing the benefits of folding bikes. They are compact, theft-proof and easy to use and store. When combined with trains, buses and cars they make journeys truly 'door to door'. Now with many excellent folding bicycles, the sector is poised to become main-stream.

This new technology, which has been in development for over 5 years, aims to help the sector grow and reach main-stream. The mechanism is stiff, light and easy to use, uniquely its stiffness increases with load. Although not limited to full sized wheels, starting with full sized bikes has many benefits; most people prefer full sized bikes; full sized wheels and matching components have had 100 years of weight and strength developments. By linking up with Ming cycle, bicycles with this technology will be available sooner, and at affordable prices, by having all the backing of a major producer."

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