The first 100 igus bicycles take to the road

# The first optimized series of the plastic bike is ready. igus sets up its own production facility in Cologne

**24 March 2024** – The global leader in motion plastics, igus®, has announced that after a long period of development work, the [igus:bike](https://igus.bike/en/frontpage-2/), a bicycle made of 92 percent plastic with a high share of recycled content, has gone into series production.

The Dutch development partner MTRL is currently producing the first 100 units together with igus. At the same time, the plastics specialist is building its own production line at the Cologne site to increase production capacity to 10,000 units over the next two years. This brings the companies one step closer to their sustainability vision of transferring plastic waste to a circular economy and using it for future urban mobility.

Around three and half years ago, Frank Blase, CEO of igus, launched a sustainable project: using mountains of plastic from the world's landfills to produce plastic bicycles: durable and maintenance-free urban bikes that are corrosion-free and dirt-resistant, can easily withstand wind and weather outdoors for many years and thus revolutionize mobility not only in cities, but also on campsites, hotels, trade shows, and company premises. It is a win-win situation for the environment and people.

"I am delighted that we have now come to a big step closer to realizing this vision," says Frank Blase. "The igus:bike is now finally hitting the road under a new name in its first small series."

The Dutch development partner MTRL is currently producing 100 units together with igus. Once the vehicle has been approved for road use, the company plans to deliver it quickly to the first of the approximately 1,500 customers who have pre-ordered the bike. The price of the plastic bike amounts to around €1,200.

"To shorten the waiting time for the remaining orders, we are building our own production line for the bicycle at our company site in Cologne. We intend to produce 10,000 bikes with the expanded capacities," says Sven Terhardt, Head of Sales & Marketing igus:bike.

# igus bicycle consists of 92 percent plastic

The go-ahead for series production should have been given a few months ago. However, some optimizations to the igus:bike were time-consuming and essential in terms of sustainability. One involved further increasing the proportion of plastic. The few parts that were still made of metal in earlier prototypes, such as the seat post or brake lever, are also made of plastic in the current version.

The engineers have also increased the steering angle of the handlebars so that riders can take corners better. Other new features include a freewheel in the drive train so that the wheels turn even without pedaling, more wear-resistant [xiros](https://www.igus.com/info/plastic-ball-bearings) ball bearings that allow the wheels to run even more smoothly and without lubrication, and a two-legged stand to park the bike safely.

"The igus:bike, which weighs around 17 kilograms, is now made of 92 percent plastic," says Sven Terhardt. "From the frame to the bearings to the drive train, which was long considered almost impossible in the industry."

# Recycling rate is already at 50 percent – and rising

igus and MTRL use rotational molding and injection molding to produce bicycle components from granulates made of recycled plastic waste, including fishing nets. The engineers and material experts have reduced the proportion of virgin plastic used to 50 percent.

"We are now continuing to invest in research and development to increase the recycling rate to 75 percent as quickly as possible, and even to 100 percent in the long term," emphasizes Terhardt. "We are accelerating the circular economy for plastics with this high proportion of recycling. Plastic in the world's rubbish dumps is therefore becoming an increasingly valuable resource."

Learn more about the igus:bike here: <https://igus.bike/en/frontpage-2/>



### Image PM1124-1

*The first new igus bikes are now hitting the roads and will be seen in cities and as hotel bikes, on campsites, or at trade shows. (Source: igus GmbH)*

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| PRESS CONTACT: Michael Rielly  1.800.521.2747  mrielly@igus.net  www.igus.com |  |
| ABOUT IGUS: igus GmbH develops and produces motion plastics. These self-lubricating, high-performance polymers improve technology and reduce costs wherever things move. In energy supplies, highly flexible cables, plain and linear bearings, and lead screw technology made of tribo-polymers, igus is the worldwide market leader. The family-run company based in Cologne, Germany, is represented in 31 countries and employs 4,600 people across the globe. In 2022, igus generated a turnover of €1.15 billion. Research in the industry's largest test laboratories constantly yields innovations and more user security. Two hundred thirty-four thousand articles are available from stock, and service life can be calculated online. In recent years, the company has expanded by creating internal startups, for example, ball bearings, robot drives, 3D printing, the RBTX platform for Lean Robotics, and intelligent "smart plastics" for Industry 4.0. Among the most significant environmental investments are the "chainge" program – recycling used e-chains and participating in an enterprise that produces oil from plastic waste. | |