



PRESS RELEASE

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20 years of HASE BIKES: Happy Birthday, Innovations!

From the “Jugend forscht” trike to the commuter mobility scooter with fairing

A birthday is always cause for celebration. At HASE BIKES it is above all a time for celebrating innovation. The company is so creative that its record of achievements since its inception 20 years ago reads like a list of milestones in the history of bicycle engineering.

It was founded in 1994 in a garage in Bochum, Germany. Today, 20 years and dozens of product developments on, HASE BIKES and its workforce of 40 staff plus is based in the listed Hibernia Colliery building in Waltrop. Their success story makes heady reading. At the age of 17, Marec Hase, today MD and chief developer of the specialist bike manufacturer, won the “Jugend forscht” competition – with a trike tandem. “All I wanted was to be able to cycle with a friend who was blind, and there was simply nothing suitable on the market,” he explained succinctly. So it was a case of do-it-yourself. Ever since then, this bike enthusiast has never passed up on a challenge.

- 1996 sees the appearance of the agile and incredibly manoeuvrable KETTWIESEL, also a trike. Updated to technical state of the art every few years ever since, it now enjoys cult status.
- The same year witnesses the launch of the LEPUS, a luxury version of the KETTWIESEL, with rear suspension and raised seat position.
- Just two years later HASE BIKES brings out the PINO. The compact tandem with saddle at the rear and recumbent seat at the front gets an enthusiastic reception from tourer fans and globetrotters alike.

- Towards the end of the 1990s, requests start coming in from disabled users: Can't you develop a tandem with hand cranks for us? Hase can indeed; and soon a hand crank is turning trikes into handbikes. Here Hase comes up with a new innovation: a unique solution for steering control.
- 2000 sees a quick-fit child bottom bracket for the tandem. Young bikers, measuring upwards of one metre, can now pedal in unison with an adult in the panoramic recumbent seat. The bike is steered as always from the rear seat.
- A differential gear is developed for the trikes in 2005, transferring pedal power to both rear wheels. This gives the KETTWIESEL new capabilities off-road and on hilly terrain, making it a superb fun machine. "Gear engineering was a real challenge", says Hase, who is a precision engineer by profession, "but there was simply no suitable alternative on the market."
- As from 2006 all frame production is switched from steel to high-quality aluminium. This is an enormous undertaking, as all frames have to be re-calculated and re-designed. "But the time was simply ripe for aluminium," explains the man behind the development.
- The PINO gets a two-section frame – it can now fit into almost any small car. The sport version even gets its own transport solution: the tourer for two can be packed away into a single, easily portable case.
- 2007 sees market roll-out of the TRETTS. Trike, baby jogger, trailer for pedalling in unison... this multi-talented trike is at least as flexible as its big brothers – why shouldn't kids have just as much fun?
- By 2010, the idea of car-less mobility is taking on new forms at HASE BIKES. The KLIMAX appears on the scene, a trike with e-motor (pedal assist up to 25 or 45 km/h) and foldable fairing, making it the perfect all-season commuter trike. The bike receives numerous design and environmental awards. As part of a HASE BIKES campaign, the mayoress of Waltrop surrenders her car keys for three weeks – to go everywhere by KLIMAX!
- 2014 sees a new area of application for the tandem: the PINO PORTER. The cargobike accommodates a generous 160-litre load volume in two



bags and an 80 kg payload. Typical of HASE BIKES, it can be reconverted back to a tandem in a jiffy, with the top bag being folded up and concealed behind the recumbent seat.

The incredible thing is that the firm is only 20 years old – this was just the beginning. Brace yourselves for more HASE BIKES highlights!

You can find the latest information on the HASE BIKES range and the ideas behind their concepts at www.hasebikes.com.