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Press Kit, June 2016

Best Automotive Startup 2015

Best Italian Mechatronic Startup 2015

Winner of Edison Pulse Awards 2016

SHORT DESCRIPTION.

Bikee Bike has created a new electric motor that can be installed in just a few minutes on most standard bicycle frames. The motor is a mid-drive, and is placed in the middle of the bike frame, replacing the original bottom bracket. This motor uses a newly patented technology that both drastically reduces the size of the motor and increases the torque. The motor transfers movement through the bike chain, thus allowing for use of all the gears of the rear wheel, combining them with two front cranks: a small one for climbing and a bigger one for speed.

The high torque and the ability to change gears allow each bike fitted with this product to easily climb inclines of up to 58%. Why is going uphill important? Who would buy a car that can only run over flat terrain? Why should things be any different for electric bikes?

The Bikee Bike comes in four power variants: 250W for the European market, 500W for Switzerland and Canada, 749W and 999W for the American market.

Bikee Bike was founded by two brothers from the city of Reggio Emilia in an area known as “motor valley”.
To ensure the highest quality, the motor will be produced in Italy.
Bikee Bike’s technology has already received several awards: the Ford award for best automotive start-up at CES 2016; the Italian Mechatronics Award 2016, start-up section, and the Edison Pulse Award, in the "low carbon city" category

TEAM Bikee Bike:

This project was created by two brothers from Reggio Emilia who since childhood have shared a passion for anything that looks better when covered in mud. This passion is quite natural in Emilia Romagna, AKA “motor valley”, which has always regarded speed and engines as an integral part of everyday life.
Growing up, the two brothers parted ways. Luca, the older brother, moved to the Far East, where he lived and worked for seven years managing manufacturing plants in the automotive industry before opening his own “quality assurance" firm; meanwhile Matteo, the younger brother, after graduating with a degree in engineering, left for the United States, where he worked developing electric motors for special applications and, in recent years, for electric vehicles.
One day, back in Italy, while talking to a friend who is an electric bikes retailer, the conversation turned to the problems that most electric bicycles face when they have to climb mountainous or even hilly terrain. This limitation prevented the spread of electric bikes in areas that were not completely flat. Traditional hub-motor technologies tend to malfunction or do not operate at all exactly when they are needed most, i.e. when riding uphill, especially when starting from a dead stop.
The challenge was to create a powerful and lightweight electric motor, which could be easily installed on any bike, allowing the rider to climb even the toughest slopes: something that can produce enough torque to satisfy different user requirements, even the most demanding ones.
The two brothers decided to take up the challenge, putting their experience to good use to create a completely new technology from scratch. This was the beginning of the start-up "Bikee Bike",
We had some very good responses from some Italian bike manufacturers, who recognized in this engine an extremely interesting technical improvement, which could make all the difference in a market where products are diversified by design solutions, even if they are very similar from a technical point of view.
Bikee Bike’s technology has received several awards: the FORD award for best automotive technology at CES2016; the Italian Mechatronics Award 2016 in the startups category and finally, in June 2016, the EdisonPulse Award in the "Low Carbon City" category

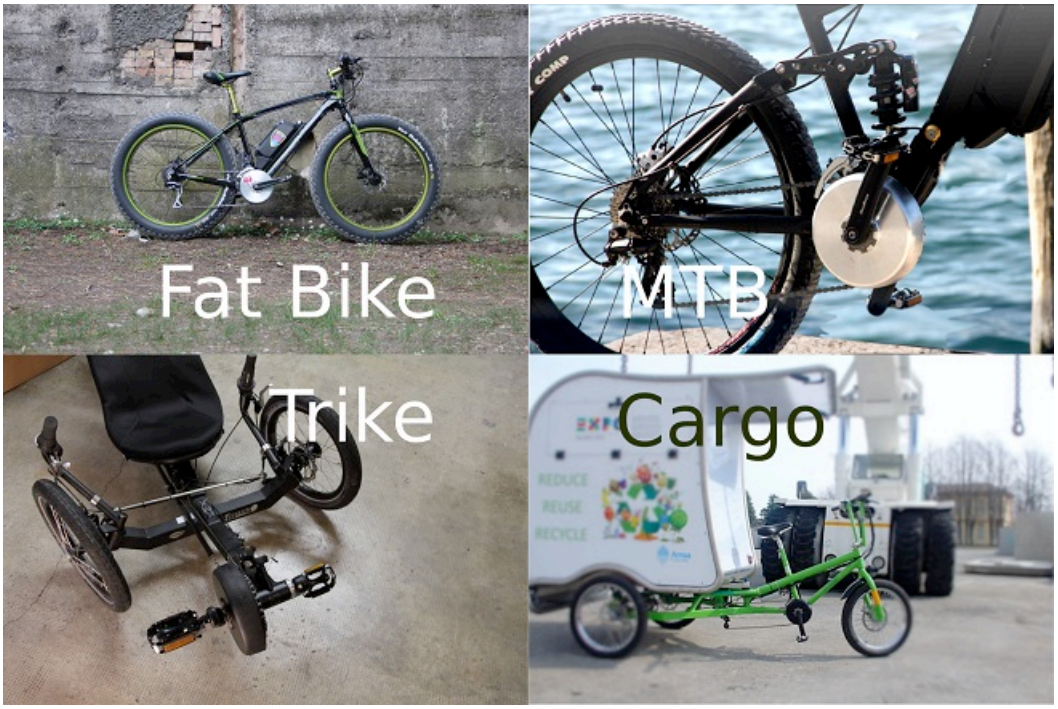
BIKEE BIKE'S TECHNOLOGY

Electric bikes usage is growing steadily, and more and more people are looking to this type of mobility for health or environmental reasons, for its versatility and for its low operational costs. This increase in sales volumes has finally pushed some big brands to invest in this area of technology field that hasn't changed much in the past few decades. The old motor in the wheel hub remains the most popular option on the market because it is extremely cheap, due to decades of production in Asia. This technology has significant limitations in terms of usability: primarily its single-gear ratio, because the motor rotates at the same speed as the rim. To understand the disadvantages of this solution, just imagine using your car with the gearbox stuck in fourth gear. It's easy to see in this case why any slope would present a big problem.

The few brands with advanced technological capabilities, mostly German and Japanese, have developed "mid-drive" technology, where the motor sits on the bottom bracket. This technology offers significant advantages in terms of motor efficiency and balance, while also keeping the option to use the original bike gears. This type of motor is currently available on high-end electric bicycles whose frame has been redesigned to fit a large motor.
The younger founder of Bikee Bike has used his expertise in electric motors, to develop a new "mid-drive" motors that can be installed on the majority of standard bicycle frames.
This new motor is a real technological leap, because it can generate three times the torque of competitors' models, despite of the fact that the dimension are much more compact.
The extreme compactness is even more surprising considering the reduction ratio of 10:1, which keeps the RPM within the proper efficiency range. This allows for increased performance, especially in terms of torque, and dramatically reduces consumption.
The innovative features of this motor and its extreme compactness make it ideal as a kind of conversion kit. It can be installed on the bicycle of your choosing, transforming it in just a few minutes into a top-class electric bike. All you have to do is remove the bottom bracket from the frame, install the "BEST" Bikee Bike conversion kit instead, and then install the pedals supplied with the kit and you can start using your new e-bike. Another advantage is that this process is completely reversible, which makes it possible to restore the bicycle to its original state and use the electric motor kit on another bike. The benefits of mid-drive technology will finally be available for all, and there will be no need to buy an entirely new bike. Turn any bike you choose into an e-bike.
Flexibility, a light-weight design and performance are what the Bikee Bike retrofit kit Kickstarter campaign is offering, addressing not only the end users but also local businesses: bike shops that want to create their own range of

electric bikes or bicycle manufacturers who want to offer some electric models without having to redesign and re-engineer their own frames.

To ensure the high quality of materials and workmanship, Bikee Bike will produce the motors in Italy. Suppliers have already been selected and moulding and tooling negotiated. We are ready to start manufacturing



WHAT DOES THE KIT INCLUDE?
The kit will be available either with a battery included or without if you want to purchase the motor only and supply your own batteries and controllers.
The motors come in four power variants: 250W, 500W, 749W and 999W. The standard battery is 48V and there will be three different versions to choose from: 320Wh for those who prefer a lightweight, low cost version; 420Wh to ensure high range; 550Wh for long distances and high performance.

The complete kit weighs from 7.5kg to 8.5kg, depending on the selected motor and battery

WHAT ADVANTAGES DOES THE BIKEE BIKE RETROFIT KIT OFFER COMPARED TO A NORMAL ELECTRIC BIKE?

The motor was created with a specific purpose in mind: to allow all cyclists to climb steep slopes easily. This is a unique feature that will be appreciated by those who live in hilly areas and have always been denied the pleasure of traveling by bike. If anyone is wondering why going uphill is important, ask yourself the following questions: why would anyone buy a car that can only drive over flat terrain? And then ask: why should things be any different for electric bikes?

We chose to develop a conversion kit instead of a complete bicycle after listening to the needs and demands of thousands of people. Knowing that it is impossible to create a bike that is perfect for everyone, we decided to create a retrofit kit that could be perfectly adapted to each individual's needs. The motor can be installed on the bicycle of your choosing and can be switched to another when you decide to buy a new bike. The motor can be adapted to different types of frames, such as folding bikes, city bikes with big wheels or smaller fatbikes, mountain bikes, downhill bikes and fixed-gear bikes. Our motor is ideally suited to cargo bikes with two or three wheels. With cargo bikes it is crucial to have a motor that can carry heavy loads even uphill; this opens up new possibilities for both goods and food deliveries within urban areas.
To make the motor even more flexible and able to be adapted to any individual's needs, we created a piece of software that allows the owner to significantly alter the response of the motor to fit every preference. You can change the parameters of the software by simply using an app installed on your phone.

LINKS AND VIDEO:

Kickstarter campaign: http://bit.ly/bibiki

Youtube video of Bikee Bike motor pulling a Jeep: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmGCoePxhok

Youtube video of Bikee Bike winning the Ford award for best automotive technology at CES2015: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZ4-AzJT69M

Youtube video - Bikee Bike teaser: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDli5Gf924I

Youtube video for the Kickstarter campaign: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMq0jgGGjEI