

Student cycling start-up

2015



University

Gdańsk University of Technology

Country

Poland

Location

City center



Size

Number of students [2015]: approx. 23800

Number of employees [2015]: approx. 2750



Mobility Organizational Structure

None



Summary

Engineer Jakub Palikowski, studying at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the Gdańsk University of Technology, founded a start-up called Baltica Bicycles. This company is engaged in the manual production of city bicycles. There are three models available that refer to the Tri-City roots of the company: the men's bicycle "Gdańsk", the women's model "Gdynia" and the racing bicycle "Sopot".



Aims

- Using passion to create high quality bicycles.
- Promotion of a bicycle as a means of transport to move around the city.
- Promotion of the Tri-City as a region that favors cycling.



Stakeholders

Jakub Polakowski.



Background

Not available.



Description

"Engineer Jakub Polakowski, a student of mechanics and mechanical engineering at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, turned his passion for bicycles into a business. He founded the start-up under the name Baltica Bicycles and [...] combines studies with work. [...]"

Made with passion. In Poland - this is the motto of the company run by Jakub Polakowski and his two co-workers. The family origin is emphasized not only in the company's name, but also in the names of products. "Gdańsk" is an elegant men's bicycle, "Gdynia" is a women's model, while "Sopot" is a classic racing bicycle.

- Baltica city bicycles are assembled in Gdańsk. We make them ourselves. We import the frames from the cycling "Mecca" - Milan. They are hand-made there, at a workshop with forty years of experience. Wheels, brakes, saddles, handlebars and other components come from European companies, mainly Polish ones. Thanks to this, our bikes are distinguished not only by their unique style but also by their high quality. They outperform the brands of the Asian market - says Jakub Polakowski.

Even one of his university assignments considered bicycles; it was created under the supervision of Dr. Grzegorz Ronowski, assistant professor at the Department of Machine and Vehicle Construction. Jakub Polakowski constructed a composite, shock absorbing bicycle frame with an original suspension system. The work also included geometry design, 3D modeling and strength analysis. He plans to extend this topic in his master's thesis. Based on previous results, he would like to deal with a rigid bicycle carbon fiber frame design. "[1]"



Indicators

- Number of bicycles sold by Baltica Bicycles.
- Filling of bicycle parking lots at the Gdańsk University of Technology.



Results

- Opportunity to buy a bicycle assembled by a start-up, whose originator is educated at the Gdańsk University of Technology.



Cost

Not available.



Financing

Jakub Polakowski.



Lessons Learnt

- Commitment to learning and developing passion during studies can result in an idea for your own business that will allow you to fulfill your student's ambitions and goals at work.
- Social awareness of the need to care for the natural environment and human health is a factor conducive to the development of initiatives contributing to the improvement of these conditions.
- City bicycles are becoming a more and more popular means of transport.



Pictures



Fig. 1. Men's bicycle "Gdańsk" [2]

 Pictures

Fig. 2. Women's bicycle "Gdynia" [2]



Fig. 3. Racing bicycle "Sopot" [2]

 Links

- <https://pg.edu.pl/documents/1152961/39182023/201605.pdf> [DOA: 23.12.2017]
- <https://www.facebook.com/PolitechnikaGdanska/photos/pcb.827560794010240/827559237343729/?type=3> [DOA: 23.12.2017]

 Contact person

Not available.