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E+ Electric Bike Revives Wavecrest Labs E-Bike Drive

Source: Stamford
[Sep 11, 2008]

SYNOPSIS: E+ electric bike pictured above appears to utilize electric drive system originally developed by now-defunct Wavecrest Labs of Dulles, Va.



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The new E+ Electric Bicycle is now available for test rides at River Bicycles, an electric bicycle and scooter retail store in Greenwich. Whether you're looking for an alternative to fossil fuels or the best new way to ride a bike, sampling the new E+ will open the door to a world of new opportunities.

“There’s no doubt that we’re beginning to understand why these bicycles are so popular overseas,” said Ken Alder, owner of River Bicycles. “Now that we have the E+ Electric Bike with the batteries and motors mounted in the wheel hubs rather than saddle bags hanging on the back of the bike, we have a product that offers a much more stable and smoother ride with the power to go from 0 – 20 miles per hour in about 9 seconds.”

The trend toward electric bikes is at an all time high according to the Gluskin-Townley Group, which does market research for the National Bicycle Dealers Association. They estimate 10,000 electric bicycles were sold in the U.S. in 2007, up from 6,000 in 2006. Now it seems production can barely keep up with demand.

It’s not that electric bikes haven’t been around for awhile, they were just too heavy, too unreliable and relatively unattractive. The engineering team behind the E+ understood that and went on a mission to create a powerful and elegant electric bicycle. What they created was advanced technology that is definitively user friendly.

“Riders can now choose from 19 cycling modes,” said Marc Pultuskier., Marketing/Sales Manager for Electric Motion Systems, “from total electric power to pedal power to exercise bike resistance, but the most important thing that riders will remember is that they can simply press a thumb throttle and the bike powers itself – the ultimate riding experience.”

* Love the idea of commuting to work, but hate the idea of getting sweaty to get there? No problem! Ride there under full power, pedal back home.

* Always wanted to ride with that advanced bike rider, but just couldn’t keep up? Handled! Just push the lever and pass them!

* Want to get out and bike for exercise but you knew you couldn’t handle the hills? Hills-be-gone! There are no hills to climb on an E+, it actually feels like riding downhill all the time.

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* Enamored with the idea of bike touring to enjoy the countryside in Napa or Maine, but afraid of the physical commitment or dread being the “slow one”? Not any more.

Zero emissions, no carbon and no noise seem to be popular with East Coast riders, at least that’s what the E+ team is learning. More sales, more Google hits, and now more test rides are available in the East Coast region than any other part of the country.

The E+ Electric Bike is now available at River Bicycles, 12 Riversville Rd, Greenwich, CT, 203-532-1718, open Monday to Friday 10 AM to 6 PM and Saturday 10 AM to 5 PM or online at either www.riverbicycles.com or www.electrictionsystems.com.

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1. I worked at Wavecrest Laboratories and helped launch the TidalForce Electric Bicycle. Wavecrest discontinued TidalForce operations in 2005. Thereafter a handful of engineers started Electric Motion Systems and we began to work on E+, the next generation of propulsion system. It took us 2.5 years to design, develop and launch E+. E+ is markedly different than TidalForce. The similarity ends at hub motor and hub battery pack. Some of the differences are as follows:
1. E+ bike is 15-20 lbs. lighter (80 lbs. Vs. 60 lbs.)
 2. E+ Output Power is 20% more (850W vs. 1050W)
 3. E+ Torque is 20% more (72 Nm vs. 85Nm)
 4. E+ Motor is 3-phase compared to 7-Phase TidalForce motor.
 5. E+ Motor control algorithm is field oriented compared to scalar sinusoidal control with TidalForce.
 6. E+ uses RS485 intelligent communication protocol between motor, battery, display and other accessories. TidalForce had no intelligent communication.
 7. E+ uses E+Que LCD display technology. TidalForce used simple LED based display.
 8. E+ has advanced diagnostic capability through E+Que. TidalForce had no diagnostic capability.
 9. E+ Torque bar is made of 11.4mm Machined Aluminum compared to TidalForce's sheet metal torque bar.
 10. E+ System efficiency is 85% compared to TidalForce's 70%.
 11. E+ uses TI Processor TMS320LF2801, 100MHz vs. TMS320LF2407, 40MHz used in TidalForce.
 12. E+ has full regeneration capability. TidalForce had limited regeneration.
 13. E+ employs hall effect position sensing compared to optical sensing in TidalForce.
 14. E+ Motor, Battery and E+Que display are water resistant. TidalForce components were not water resistant.
 15. E+ has a range of 30 miles at 10mph, 20 miles at 15 mph and 15 miles at 20 mph. TidalForce had a range of 15 miles at 15 mph.
 16. Top Speed of E+ is 30+ mph. Top speed of TidalForce x model was 26 mph.
 17. Hub batteries use modular NiMH configuration with adaptive and advanced battery management system. TidalForce had a simple BMS.
 18. E+Que has an integrated cycle computer and electric vehicle controller. TidalForce had none.
 19. E+ has 19 operating modes. TidalForce had 2.
 20. E+ has 9 exercise modes with varying level of regeneration (50W to 750W). TidalForce had zero.
 21. E+Que also acts as a security key. Once locked and removed, E+ system freezes rendering it impossible to pedal. TidalForce had none.

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22. E+ 750W has a soft 20mph speed limit. The motor stops assisting beyond 20 mph. However it is possible to go beyond 20mph. TidalForce standard had a hard 20 mph limit. TidalForce could not go beyond 20 mph.
23. E+ uses advanced regenerative braking rendering the use of mechanical brakes worthless.
24. E+ uses Electromagnetic locking. TidalForce had no locking capability.
25. E+ stores tremendous amount of data in the motor, battery and E+Que display. TidalForce had no storage capability.
26. E+Que is removable display. TidalForce display could not be removed.

For more information, please check the following:

1. <http://www.electricmotionsystems.com/>
2. <http://electricpolicebikes.com/>
3. <http://groups.google.com/group/EplusElectricBicycle>

Rakesh

Posted by: Rakesh Dhawan:

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