

SMART and NASA Announce First Airless Alloy Tire for Consumers

SMART, co-founded by Survivor champ Earl Cole, is developing the first consumer application of NASA's shape memory alloy tire technology, a futuristic bicycle tire called METL™

Los Angeles, CA - March 16, 2021 - The SMART Tire Company, in partnership with NASA, is developing the first ever consumer application of NASA's airless shape memory alloy (SMA) tire technology, a cutting edge, eco-friendly bicycle tire called METL™. Originally invented by NASA for use on lunar and Mars rover missions, the SMA tire is made from advanced, lightweight materials known as NiTiInol+, creating a tire that is elastic like rubber yet strong like titanium, exhibiting perfect shape memory without ever going flat.

Made in gold, silver and metallic blue, the SMART Tire Company's METL™ bike tire has a stunning, space-age metallic look and feel. "Cyclists will not be able to wait to get their hands on these very cool-looking, space-age METL™ tires that don't go flat," says Earl Cole, former *Survivor* champion and CEO of The SMART Tire Company. "The unique combination of these advanced materials, coupled with a next generation, eco-friendly design make for a revolutionary product."

The SMART Tire Company LLC was founded in 2020 by Cole and blockchain engineer, Brian Yennie. Together with former NASA engineering intern and cycling enthusiast, Calvin Young, the SMART team has consulted with NASA Glenn Research Center inventors Dr. Santo Padula and Colin Creager to bring the power of shape memory alloy tire technology to the general public. Thanks to their ability to undergo phase transitions at the molecular level under strain, SMAs are unlike any other material, exhibiting thirty times the recoverable strain of ordinary steel. What's more, SMART's METL™ tires are eco-friendly, utilizing long-lasting materials that reduce the usage of elastomer or rubber sidewalls and encasings. SMART's advanced research will establish METL™ tires as the premier high-tech component for the modern cyclist across road, gravel, mountain and e-bike applications.

"Shape memory alloys look extremely promising in revolutionizing the entire terrestrial tire industry," says Santo Padula, PhD, Materials Science Engineer at NASA, "and that's just the tip of the iceberg."

The SMART Tire Company is also working with leading micromobility provider, [Spin](#), part of the Ford Motor Company, to develop SMA tires for e-scooters. James Berg, Research and Development Manager at Spin says, "We are excited about the potential of METL™ and we are sharing our knowledge about scooter tire performance and specifications with The SMART Tire Company to help advance our mission to create cleaner, safer and better transportation for all."

Additionally, [Felt Bicycles](#) has provided bikes for research and development. "The SMART Tire Company's tire solution shows an exciting new frontier and we're excited to offer our bikes to support their testing," says Eric Sakalowsky, VP Global Marketing & E-Commerce at Felt Bicycles.

The SMART Tire Company is taking on the \$250B global tire market in hopes of becoming the next great American tire company, bringing smarter and cleaner solutions to the future of transportation. METL™ tires will be available for the cycling community in early 2022 before reaching the auto industry and beyond. For more information and to learn more about how The SMART Tire Company is Reimagining the Wheel™, visit [SmartTireCompany.com](https://www.smarttirecompany.com).