



To promote the debut of DraftSight in Poland, Dassault Systemes teamed up with highly acclaimed CAD journalist Maciej Stanislawski (<http://www.CADBlog.pl>) for a Mini Bike Design Contest. The DraftSight-branded pocket bike was a hit with visitors at the Wirtotechnologia International Fair of Virtual Processing in Warsaw.

“DraftSight Design Contest Flirts With Daredevil Dreams”

When Maciej Stanislawski, founder of Poland’s popular CADBlog, agreed to cosponsor a DraftSight 2D design contest, he wanted to go above and beyond the traditional choice of prizes.

Complementing the safe pick of an iPod Touch, Stanislawski tracked down a Trendmax minibike and branded it with the DraftSight, Dassault Systemes and CADBlog logos. To be eligible to win, contest entrants would have to download DraftSight and use it to design their own minibike.

Also known as a “pocket bike” or “mini moto,” the pint-sized motorcycle seemed like the perfect symbol to raise awareness about DraftSight to the CAD community. The bike’s tiny profile summons up the compact file size of DraftSight’s free download (only 45 MB). And the daredevil element reflects the bravado of Dassault Systemes to dive into the crowded 2D market (who dares to give their product away for free?).

Ironically, the winner of the Minibike Contest ultimately chose to bring home the iPod Touch instead. Marcin Gasior, a designer/builder for a mining machine company in southern Poland, said his wife’s safety concerns were the trump card. Very few people get injured from iPods.

“My wife was quite right,” he said, expressing no regrets. “The minibike had massive potential, but there is no racetrack near my home and it is not even legal to take it out on the roads.”

The typical pocket bike weighs about 50 pounds, can reach speeds over 70 miles per hour, and feel like they are traveling even faster since the rider's feet are less than six inches off the ground. Because there are no headlights, turn signals and perhaps most importantly, they are difficult to detect by motorists, the use of pocket bikes is restricted to go-kart tracks, parks and private roads in the United States and Europe.

Limitations aside, Stanislawski expressed disappointment that the winner of the "Design a Bike, Win a Bike" contest opted to walk away from the wheels.

"When my wife saw the pocket, she said it was a great prize for 'someone like me,' but maybe not for everybody," said Stanislawski, the former publisher of an automotive magazine who now builds custom motorcycles as a hobby. "In my opinion, he didn't make the right choice!"

Nonetheless, the CAD expert was impressed with Gasior's winning design.

"It looks like a big fast bike, but its concept was reduced to fit into the pocket-bike specification. For example, note the engine which is not symmetrically placed inside the frame. This really looks like a project that could be manufactured for real," he said.

The DraftSight minibike was a hit at the Wirtotechnologia International Fair of Virtual Processing in Warsaw, attracting many curious visitors to the DraftSight booth. Many attendees had trouble containing their grins as they struggled to even fit on a bike seemingly meant for a child.

And so, the contest winner's rejection means that the minibike will continue to recruit more engineers to try out DraftSight's free download. "What impresses me about DraftSight is its user interface, which is very familiar for people who have been working with AutoCAD and Intellicad-based clones," Stanislawski said.