It's now possible to buy metal bike tires that remember NASA's shape!

The Metl bicycle tire is the first consumer product to use nitinol, a shape memory alloy developed by NASA, made from nickel and titanium.

The Metl bicycle tire is the first consumer product to use nitinol, a shape memory alloy developed by NASA, made from an alloy of nickel and titanium. Compared to traditional bicycle tires, Metl tires will never go flat and last a long time - at least that's the promise of The Smart Tire Company, a former Shark Tank contestant now from Akron, Ohio, also his hometown. flavors of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

The tire is being sold through a crowdfunding campaign on Kickstarter. You'll have to spend $500 for a pair of blue or clear Metl tires (weighing 450g with a 700x35c equivalent) that 'easily install' onto most regular bike rims. This price is about 10 times the price of a good bicycle tire. The price increases to over $1,300 when choosing the pre-assembled package that includes aluminum rims, or $2,300 if you prefer carbon rims.

Here's a Verge video that provides more detailed information about NASA's nitinol:

According to the campaign, despite having a shape-memory metal structure, the tire still has good grip thanks to the integrated all-weather tread, providing 'low-medium' rolling resistance. '. The tires are rated to last up to 8,000 miles (retreads cost $10 per tire). Metl bike tires are said to offer a 'light, smooth ride, outstanding handling and durability' that can also 'increase traction' compared to conventional inflatable tyres.

Expected delivery of Metl bicycle tires is June 2024. As of now, the campaign has 128 backers, tripling its goal with still 28 days to go before the deadline. Expansion goals (if the campaign raises enough money) include making wider Metl tires for e-bikes and mountain bikes as well as more sizes and tread patterns.