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Lyster
SURFCRAFT

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Environmentally friendly, hollow-wooden surfboards built in Devon using advanced materials and techniques.

The Story

The son of a cabinet maker, Duncan Lyster graduated from the University of Exeter in 2018 with a first-class honours degree in MPhys Physics. He found his passion for crafting wooden surfboards at university and quickly devoted his time to developing his designs. After a year surfing and studying in Australia he chose to start working on Lyster Surfcraft Ltd full time after the final stretch of his degree.

Grants and support from the University of Exeter have allowed Duncan to build 11 prototype boards over the last 24 months, each an improvement on the last. The prototype boards have been thoroughly tested by over 20 surfers, and feedback is now consistently excellent. Lyster has filed a patent application to protect the unique internal structure of the boards, and the company is now making its first sales.

Boards × Environment

The boards are the first true sustainable alternative to plastic-based boards, being beautiful, but importantly, lightweight, and high performance. Standard polyurethane-based (PU) boards are light, and fast to produce, but short-lived and bad for the environment. In contrast, Lyster surfboards are very durable, but also incredibly lightweight for wooden surfboards, weighing in similar to the regular PU surfboards that currently dominate the market at around 4kg. The construction process is designed to be fully scalable, with efficiently machined internal components, and a simple assembly process. The key behind the strong, yet lightweight wooden design is the advanced internal structure, and Lyster Surfcraft is currently filing a patent to protect this.

Customers

As a community, surfers are known to be environmentally conscious, even leaders in reducing plastic waste for cleaner oceans. But at the moment the options for avoiding using plastic based surfboards are very limited, and surfers often wind up either sticking with what they have already, or spending a huge amount on an expensive and heavy wooden board that really limits their performance in the waves. Surfers have been waiting too long for a board that doesn't compromise their performance, and that makes them stand out on the beach.

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Champion
of Champions

FINALIST

