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## Summary of the 4th edition of the Azoty Group Cup

**A ceremony was held in the auditorium of the Central Sports Centre in Zakopane to sum up the National Cross-Country Skiing Development Programme, of which Grupa Azoty is the Main Partner. This season, it was for the fourth time that the Programme participants competed in the Azoty Group Cup. Awards to the winners in three age categories were presented by Marek Wadowski, Vice President of the Management Board of Grupa Azoty S.A.**

Financial awards sponsored by Grupa Azoty went to six clubs that scored the highest in the general classification, to male and female competitors in age categories: 13–14Y Male, 13–14Y Female, 15–16Y Female, 15–16Y Male, 17–19Y Female and 17–19Y Male, as well as to 15 coaches involved in the training of the athletes.

Grupa Azoty has supported cross-country skiing in Poland since 2010. During that period the National Cross-Country Skiing Development Programme was created, inspired mainly by the successes of Polish cross-country skier Justyna Kowalczyk. It was initially named 'Run for the Games', but since the 2018/2019 winter season the competitions have been held as the Azoty Group Cup.

*"On behalf of Grupa Azoty, I would like to congratulate all winners and participants of the 4th edition of our Cup. Grupa Azoty has been supporting the development of cross-country skiing for 12 years now. We believe in the sports potential of the children and youth who begin or continue their adventure with this discipline each year. This is why, together with the Polish Ski Association, we engage in the search for the best talents, who will in the future represent Poland on top cross-country skiing tracks of the world. And that is, of course, what I wish to the participants of this year's and next editions of the Grupa Azoty Cup," said Marek Wadowski, Vice President of the Management Board of Grupa Azoty S.A.*

The 4th edition of the Azoty Group Cup started in December 2021 on the cross-country skiing routes of the Central Sports Centre in Zakopane, and the final competition took place in mid-March on Kubalonka. The other three editions were held in Zakopane, Tomaszów Lubelski and Ptaszkowa.

*"I can only speak in glowing terms about our cooperation with Grupa Azoty, which has been supporting the Polish Ski Association, and in particular the development of cross-country skiing in Poland, for many years. Thanks to this partnership and mutual trust, together we can enjoy the successes of our representation in international competitions. Last winter, Monika Skinder won the third championship medal in her career and became the World Vice-Champion in the under-23 category, while Izabela Marcisz achieved her best ever results in the World Cup and at the Olympic Winter Games. The Grupa Azoty Cup is the main platform for the development of cross-country skiing in Poland. The programme includes not only sports competitions, but also financial support for clubs, coaches and sportsmen. It is very important to encourage and motivate young skiers*

to take up this beautiful sport. And the support we receive from Grupa Azoty makes this possible. We have better and better conditions for the advancement of cross-country skiing in Poland and more successes of our trainees in international competitions," **said Apoloniusz Tajner, President of the Polish Ski Association.**

The Main Partner of the National Cross-Country Skiing Development Programme is Grupa Azoty, and the Grupa Azoty Cup competitions are organised by the Polish Ski Association. As part of its sponsorship of cross-country skiing, Grupa Azoty supports Monika Skinder, Junior World Vice Champion. However, Grupa Azoty's involvement in developing and promoting sports goes beyond cross-country skiing. The company also actively cooperates with the Polish Ski Association by supporting Polish ski jumpers, including World Champion Piotr Żyła.

