

Dr Mahathir receives Gold Medal of Toulouse City

PARIS, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was presented with a "Gold Medal of Toulouse City" during his visit to the city and the high-technology industries on its outskirts yesterday.

Before the presentation by Mayor Dominique Baudis, the Prime Minister rode on the city's Metro-Val rail transport, built by Matra Transport, with him.

He asked the mayor whether the one-year-old rail transport system had improved the traffic flow of the city and whether it was popular with the people.

The mayor said yes to both questions.

Dr Mahathir was also briefed on the system by Matra Transport president Federic D'Allest. Matra is making a bid to participate in the building of the system in Kuala Lumpur.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir and his entourage of government officials and businessmen toured the Airbus Industrie complex and were briefed on its operations.

He also inspected the completed Airbus A320, one of 10 ordered by Malaysia Airlines.

In the morning, the Prime Minister and his party visited the composite manufacturing facility of the Aero-spatiale-Nantes Factory in Nantes in the western part of France.

Such a facility is being set up by a Malaysian company in Malacca to produce the light but harder-than-steel composite. The material is used in many parts of the planes built by Airbus.

The flight to Nantes and Toulouse in south-western France was made on special planes provided by Airbus Industrie.