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AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENT MAKERS PARTNER WITH JAPAN'S METRO DENSO

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 28 (Bernama) -- Two Malaysian companies, Premier Choice Sdn Bhd and Usra Tampi Sdn Bhd, and the Japanese Metro Denso Co Ltd today signed a joint-venture agreement for a new company to design, manufacture and market automotive electrical parts, in particular combination switches and light, and wiper and heater switches.

Usra Tampi will own 51 percent of equity in the new company, Metrodenso (M) Sdn Bhd. Premier Choice will hold nine percent and the Japanese firm 40 percent.

The agreement, signed in Tokyo, was witnessed by the prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, a statement issued here by Premier Choice said today.

Premier Choice's chairman Datuk Wira Mohd Saleh Sulong said in his speech at the ceremony that Metrodenso's production could translate into about RM14.0 million in savings on imports of wholly-assembled units or components.

The company, he said, offered Malaysian automotive companies the opportunity to further increase the local content of their vehicles.

Premier Choice, started in 1995 as a consortium of 12 leading Malaysian companies, has the objective of creating joint ventures with foreign parties in the fields of high precision, high technology engineering.

One such venture, Teknologi Rodewald-Flushoh (M) Sdn Bhd, with the Germans, produces tools and dies and stamping for metal parts.

The company also provides consultancy and management services to small and medium size companies, and provide assistance in the development and maintenance of support systems, such as material resources.

Usra Tampi, a ISO 9002 certified and a wholly-owned bumiputera company of USRA Sdn Bhd, is another automotive components maker in high-tech injection moulding of thermoplastic and elastomers.

Metro Denso, established in 1953, is principally involved in designing, making and marketing of automotive electrical parts.

Headquartered in Kawasaki, Kanagawa, it has two factories in Japan, producing 600,000 units of combination switches annually. -- BERNAMA

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