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TVR SPORTS MAY EXPORT COMPONENTS TO UK PARTNER

SHAH ALAM, April 26 (Bernama) -- TVR Sports (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, the first overseas manufacturer of the TVR sports car, is looking at the future possibility of exporting several parts of the locally produced car back to its partner, TVR Engineering Ltd of the United Kingdom.

The company's chief executive officer, Peter Tan today said TVR Sports has also identified a number of items with local suppliers for exporting the components, especially the labour intensive parts like the car's fibreglass bodies.

The company was also studying the potential of exporting completely knocked down (CKD) TVR Chimaera models to complement its present export of completely built up (CBU) Chimaera, he said.

Speaking at press conference after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the locally produced Chimaera here, Tan named Thailand as one possible destinations for the CKD Chimaera.

The company has a lot of possibilities as there was no restriction from its principal, TVR Engineering, he said.

Datuk Razali Abdul Rahman, TVR Sports chairman, in his welcoming address, said the company might begin exporting the components to its UK partner once its vendor development programme matures.

TVR Sports, which manufactures about 50 percent of the car in-house, was embarking on the vendor development programme, starting with 10 selected parts and component manufacturers who would be nurtured as future suppliers, he added.

TVR Sports, the exclusive distributor for TVR sportscar for the Asia Pacific region, was also expected to supply the Chimaera back to the U.K. and the European market as the TVR Engineering UK factory expands its operation to concentrate on manufacturing another TVR model, the Cerbera.

Tan said since March 1995, TVR Sports has invested around RM24 million for its Port Klang factory which has a full production capacity of 1,000 units per year.

At present 10 units of the two-seater Chimaera are produced a month and plans were afoot to increase the output to 20 units per month by the end of the year.

Sometime next year, five additional Chimaera might be produced so that the company can turn in some profits, he said.

Sixty percent of the cars produced are for the export markets, he said adding that 25 units have been exported so far.

In Malaysia, the company would sell the car through its Port Klang factory as potential buyers could have the opportunity to order specifications according to their taste, and even get a sneak into the production process, he said.

The Chimaera, constructed with a composite body mounted on a rigid tubular spaceframe chassis, comes in either a V8 4.0 litre or V8 5.0 litre engine variant.

The introductory prices range from RM238,000 to RM266,360. However, the prices are likely to be adjusted upwards after the introductory period.

TVR Engineering holds 10 percent stake in TVR Sports and the rest is held by 11 other shareholders. --BERNAMA

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