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Inokom launches first van

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INDUSTRI Otomotif Komersial (M) Sdn Bhd (Inokom) has launched its first product, the national 1-tonne van called Inokom Permas.

Based on the Renault Trafic, the Permas comes in long wheelbase, short wheelbase, high roof, standard roof, basic and deluxe variants, with seating for two to 11 passengers.

It is priced between RM41,746 and RM45,864 for the panel vans, and between RM53,909 and RM65,228 for the window vans.

The Permas is powered by Renault's 2,165 cc multipoint injection 4-cylinder engine.

As a commercial vehicle, it features a high roof design which provides standing room and allows for easy loading, a low loading height, sliding side loading door, load anchorage points, and twin rear doors that open 90 or 180 degrees.

It is also available as a panel or window van. In the panel vans, a protective tubular steel bulkhead behind the driver's seat protects the driver from any cargo that might be thrown forward.

For the driver and passengers, the Permas features a user-friendly dashboard, car-like seats, courtesy lights in the front and rear cabin, and a fold-down writing table. The dashboard layout includes a clock, trip meter, two-speed wipers and swivel air vents.

The front-wheel drive five-speed Permas is also equipped with power steering, and an environment-friendly engine.

The Permas is assembled at the Inokom factory, located on a 81ha site in Kulim, Kedah. Officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on 15 November 1997, construction of the factory began in late 1995 and was completed in the second quarter of 1997.

The RM100 million factory has a maximum capacity of 40,000 vehicles a year on a two-shift basis.

Besides its own research and development, Inokom is also developing automotive vendors in the northern region to supply it with parts and components by providing them with technical assistance, assisting them to attain ISO certification and venture into new markets overseas.

Incorporated in October 1992, Inokom has an authorised capital of RM500 million and a paid-up capital of RM100 million.

A joint venture between Malaysia, France and South Korea, Inokom's local partners are Berjaya Group Bhd (35 per cent), Polis DiRaja Malaysia Cooperative subsidiary Pesumals (M) Sdn Bhd (30 per cent) and Hyumal Motor Sdn Bhd (5 per cent).

Its foreign partners are motor vehicle manufacturers Renault (15 per cent) from France and Hyundai Motor Company (15 per cent) from South Korea.

Berjaya Group Bhd and Pesumals (M) Sdn Bhd have two representatives each on the board of directors, while Hyumal Motor Sdn Bhd, Renault and Hyundai Motor Company are represented by a director each.

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