

26/06/1998

Lotus to make 4WD vehicles, bicycles

P. Selvarani in London

GROUP Lotus, the renowned British sports car maker in which Proton now has an 80 per cent stake, is to venture into the production of four-wheel drive sporting vehicles and racing bicycles.

A report in the Financial Times yesterday said the move to venture into the production of other sports vehicles was spurred by DRB-Hicom's move to increase its stake from 63.5 per cent to 80 per cent last last month.

The report quoted Group Lotus new managing director Chris Knight saying that he has initiated a review of Lotus business activities to decide the kind of vehicles to produce - more cars and with greater variety.

For a start, the review would look into the possibility of manufacturing sports utility vehicles and racing bicycles. The review is expected to be completed in August.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had performed the ground-breaking ceremony for the centre which was initially designed to be a development centre for Proton.

It will now undertake engineering development work for other vehicle makers as well, including General Motors.

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