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Teknokraf in RM200m Eleksuria car deal

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PERAK-BASED Teknokraf Sdn Bhd has secured a RM200 million contract to supply body parts for the country's first electric car to be manufactured by Perusahaan Otomobil Elektrik Sdn Bhd (Poem).

Under the five-year renewable contract, Teknokraf would manufacture the parts for Eleksuria, the electric car which would be first used in the Commonwealth Games in September.

Poem chairman Datuk Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali said yesterday Teknokraf had started producing the components in April based on moulds provided by Poem.

"The products are of high quality and we are very satisfied," he told reporters after the signing of the agreement in Batu Gajah, Perak.

The body parts are made of composite materials.

Teknokraf is able to produce 10 sets of parts per day which is sufficient to meet Poem's requirements.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Tajuddin said the first 50 units of Eleksuria would be handed over to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when the latter launches the Bukit Jalil Sports Complex today.

Of the 300 Eleksuria cars designated for the Games, 70 would be painted according to the flags of participating nations.

"The other vehicles will be in various colours according to the respective sponsors."

Ahmad Tajuddin said the Road Transport Department had approved the use of Eleksuria on normal roads with the exception of highways.

He added that the car had "great export potential" and there was already a demand for it in other countries.

Asked on the development of the electric city car, he said the prototype was being finalised and trial production was expected to begin sometime next year.

"We are now in discussions with a national car manufacturing company to participate in the project and help us in the production. Poem's and its main shareholder Tenaga Nasional Bhd's expertise is more towards the electrical side."

He said there was also a possibility that Teknokraf would provide the body parts for the city car.

As for Poem's manufacturing facility, Ahmad Tajuddin said a 40ha site in Salak Tinggi in Selangor had been identified.

The Selangor Government was expected to provide the land in exchange for 20 per cent equity in Poem.

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