

30/06/2002

EON launches the TrailWagon

Albakry Salehuddin

EON'S Trailwagon was officially launched recently by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who took time off the UMNO general assembly to inspect the locally-manufactured carrier on wheels.

"The Trailwagon is actually a normal thing in the western countries where it has always been around. Here, the Trailwagon is a relatively new thing" EON's Automotive OEM and REM manager Mohd Fawzy A. Wahid said.

He added that the Trailwagon is actually of German design, which has been adapted to suit the Malaysian market.

For now it comes in six variants from the basic unit, which is only the trailer, to something that can be tailored to your needs like with a hard cover top, canopy cover and frame and even a night market version. Future versions will have added features like an adapter to transport a go-kart or Jetski.

"The basic unit is a base model which you can later fit extra options like the kart adapter that can be bolt on the trailer," he said.

The Trailwagon weighs only 350kg when empty and can carry loads of up to 400kg. It measures two metres long, one metre wide and half a metre deep.

The minimum requirement to pull the trailer is a 1500cc car.

"Anything smaller and you will have problems pulling the trailer and braking," adds Fawzy.

The Trailwagon was put through various tests for safety and built quality before it was sent for approval.

"The first prototype didn't pass the Road Transport Department requirements when it was sent for approval because it didn't have an independent braking system. For user safety, we have since fitted a braking system for the trailer itself," Fawzy said.

When the driver applies the brakes the car slows down and at the same time a mechanism attached to the car is pushed backward into the trailer. This automatically applies pressure to the drum brakes fitted to each wheel and assist it in slowing down or stopping. The brakes also work as parking brakes for the trailer.

There are two stabiliser bars at the back of the trailer to help stabilise it when it is parked and a third small wheel that can be lowered down on the front when there is no support on that end.

All necessary parts like the hook and sockets are included when you buy the trailer, and it even comes with a registration - just like buying a car. All required documents such as road tax and insurance will also be included in the package.

Fawzy is not sure on how the public will react to the trailer but according to him, a survey was done two years ago when the prototype was displayed at the 2000 motorshow at PWTC.

"More than 87 per cent of visitors said they were interested in the trailer when we passed out questionnaires at the motorshow."

The basic unit for the Trailwagon is priced at RM8,301.65 for private registration and RM8,424.82 for commercial use.

(END)