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Rotax launches new 125cc engine, chassis

MALAYSIA was picked by kart engine manufacturers Rotax as a venue to launch their brand new 125cc engine and chassis design in Langkawi last night.

Called the 125 Max DD2, Rotax's sales and marketing manager Manfred Weigarber said the latest version is a bridge between the two-stroke and the four-stroke engine.

"This model is created in anticipation of the four-stroke engine regulation, which is currently being considered by world governing body the International Karting Commission (CIK)," he said.

"In order to get the best out of the engine, we have designed a new chassis using the latest in design and construction technology. The new kart is now even closer to F1 cars as drivers are able to shift gears by using levers on the steering wheel."

The launching, which was held in conjunction with the Rotax World Finals, was witnessed by Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein. At the Morac International Karting Circuit yesterday, Rotax took the opportunity to show off their latest machine to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Finals, which featured 74 drivers from 29 countries, exclusively utilised the standard Rotax FR125 engine, which were distributed to competitors fresh from the box on Thursday.

Since no modifications were allowed to be made to the engines, which can be fitted to any homologated 100cc chassis, the competition was fairly balanced. Rotax have also created a strong marketing foothold in South East Asia through the annual Malaysian Max Challenge five-round championship, which picks Malaysian drivers for the Finals.

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