

Savvy donated for hybrid project

KUANTAN: Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) has received a Proton Savvy 1.2 from Edaran Otomobil Nasional Berhad (EON) to be used for research purposes by the university's Electrical and Electronic Engineering Faculty.

A team led by researcher Mohd Ruslim Mohamed would focus on developing the technology for a hybrid car or a motorised battery operated vehicle proto (MBOVP) to power its engine.

The idea came about after some of the staff members underwent a short course at Zull Design Autronics in Rawang three years ago.

According to UMP vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Mohamed Said Mat Lela, the MBOVP project was a follow-up to the faculty's first project - developing an electric car that was MBOV Proto-1.

"The MBOV Proto-1 uses a model that was fabricated by the team. It was launched on Feb 21, 2005," he said during a presentation ceremony at UMP in Gambang here recently.

Also present were EON's managing director Datuk Syed Hisham Syed Wazir and UMP visiting professor Datuk Ahmad Zaidee Laidin, who is also a



Base vehicle: UMP's electrical and electronic engineering faculty dean Shaikh Nasir Shaikh Abdul Rahman (left), Syed Hisham Syed Wazir, UMP vice chancellor Datuk Dr Mohamed Said Mat Lela and Dr Ahmad with the Savvy.

member of EON's board of directors.

Dr Mohamed Said said it was important for UMP as a technical university to develop close ties with the industrial sector.

On the research project, Dr Mohamed Said said it was a timely effort as there was a need to find an alternative fuel.

"MBOVP is a significant project towards producing a hybrid car that runs on fuel cells and can help reduce air pollution," he added.

In his speech, Syed Hisham said the partnership with UMP would have a major impact on the country's automotive industry.

Speaking to reporters later, Syed Hisham said EON was willing to conduct test runs once the research team has completed its hybrid car.

He said there was a market for hybrid cars in Malaysia.

Dr Mohamed Said said a prototype electric car would be ready by September next year.