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Varsity gets help from EON on hybrid car research

KUANTAN: Edaran Otomobil Nasional Bhd (EON) has presented a Proton Savvy 1.2 to the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Faculty of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) to be used for research on motorised battery-operated vehicles (MBOVs).

The research will focus on developing technology for an electric-powered car.

The MBOV project is a follow-up to the faculty's first electric car project, MBOC Proto-1, launched on Feb 21, 2005 and which resulted in the research group fabricating its own model.

EON managing director Datuk Syed Hisham Syed Wazir gave away the car to UMP vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Mohamed Said Mat Lela at the university in Gambang here yesterday.

Also present was UMP's visiting professor and EON director Datuk Dr Ir Ahmad Zaidee Laidin.

Speaking to reporters later, Syed Hisham said it marked the beginning of a smart partnership with UMP, especially on finding an alternative fuel for vehicles.

"We are looking into the possibilities of having our own hybrid cars and electric cars."

"EON will assist UMP in its research work including testing the sample car," he added.

On whether there was a market for hybrid cars in Malaysia, Syed Hisham said there was potential for vehicles that use alternative fuel.

Dr Mohamed Said said a model electric car would be ready by September next year. It would initially be battery-operated but research would also include the use of bio-diesel fuel.