

EPMB: Honda ties in line with expansion

LOCAL automotive component company, EP Manufacturing Bhd (EPMB), said it is optimistic its new partnership with Honda Malaysia Sdn Bhd will increase sales up to 15%.

Its chairman Hamidon Abdullah said the collaboration with Honda is part of the group's expansion plans.

"We have invested RM27 million for the group's capital expenditure (capex) this year. The capex is to focus primarily on developing our partnership with Honda," he told reporters after the group's AGM last Friday in Kuala Lumpur.

He said new facilities were built and robotic assembly

lines were commissioned in the group's new plant located in Malacca.

"The partnership with Honda is a testament to EPMB's capabilities as a tier-1 automotive component supplier," he said.

Hamidon said the group will be supplying underbody car parts to the Honda City model and may extend it to other Honda models in the future.

According to the group, the first batch of supply to Honda Malaysia commenced from March 2014 this year.

"We hope to continue developing a long-term relation-

ship with Honda Malaysia," he added.

Meanwhile, Hamidon said the company is also looking to work with other automotive players in the future.

EPMB, an investment holding company, through its subsidiaries, operates in two segments: automotive, which involves the manufacture, assembly and sale of automotive parts, and water division, which includes the manufacture, assembly and sale of water meters.

Its subsidiaries are PEPS-JV (M) Sdn Bhd, which is engaged in the manufacture and sales of automotive modular compo-

nents; EP Polymers (M) Sdn Bhd, which is engaged in manufacture, fabrication, production, and sales of engineering plastic components and integrated air fuel module automotive engines; Fundwin Sdn Bhd; Circle Ring Network Sdn Bhd, which includes the manufacture, assembly and distribution of water meters; EP Metering Services Sdn Bhd, which is engaged in management of water treatment facilities, water meter installation and its related consultancy work; Advance Product Systems Sdn Bhd; EP Moulds & Dies (M) Sdn Bhd and EPMB (Australia) Pte Ltd. — *by K VINOTHARAN*