



Mission Ready – Thanks to MAN’s Care

Stefan Pertz followed MAN’s personnel to East Malaysia to find out what it takes to ensure the mission-readiness of trucks deployed there.

Captain Noor Izzani moves fast and with precision. Just like the rest of her unit, the 71st Battalion Transport Company, which is a transport unit stationed in Kota Kinabalu. Meeting her at the barracks, we learn more about the MAN trucks used by this unit and how they are being kept in spotless condition to allow for swift response to any situation. There is a total of four trucks within this unit. While the chassis are supplied by MAN, local partner AVP Engineering (M) Sdn Bhd takes care of the bodies. In total, some 60 units of this truck have been supplied to the Malaysian armed forces.

Similar to trucks used in civilian logistics, each truck is handled by two drivers assigned to the vehicle. What makes the operation in the army unit unique is that the maintenance is carried out by a separate unit. Maintenance units are tasked to do just that: maintain and service the vehicles. They don’t drive them. What is crucial is that the

trucks are ready for action at any given time. “We move goods and personnel. What makes our job tough is the rough terrain that we move in. Trucks need to be rugged and have to take a lot of stress. While others might be concerned about fuel efficiency, this is not our main concern,” says Izzani. Sergeant Paul, who works alongside her added that the trucks easily clock in 60 000 Km in a year as the distances travelled are vast. “We can give these trucks top ratings as they perform well and are easy to keep moving.”

When repairs are necessary, AVP and MAN will work hand in hand to rectify the issue. Thanks to the partnership with the local firm, any issue can be addressed quickly. Spare parts can be drawn from MAN’s nearby warehouse. Since the trucks have to be in immaculate condition, only genuine parts are being used.



MAN's Local Partner: AVP Engineering (M) Sdn Bhd

Their history in the special purpose vehicle business began with the incorporation of AVP Engineering in 1994. AVPE Engineering (M) Sdn. Bhd. (AVPE) is a subsidiary of CB Industrial Product Holding Berhad (CBIP), a company listed on the Bursa Malaysia main board in June 2005. Located within the vicinity of Telok Panglima Garang industrial facilities hub in the state of Selangor.

AVPE is equipped with the most modern machineries for steel fabrication and assembly works. A fully comprehensive spacious fabrication facilities enables AVPE production teams to plan for a flexible production process incorporating the most modern equipment that provides maximum efficiency and highest quality products.

Urgency of a different kind is what a TV station is faced with. When important events happen, the crews need to be mobile in a heartbeat as well. For RTM, a MAN truck has been a reliable work-horse for over a decade.

The truck, purchased via the Kuala Lumpur based headquarters has been the pride and joy of Mohd. Dhalaan bin Haji Harun, the driver.

"This truck is used to tow a mobile TV studio to where it is needed. We sometimes drive up to ten hours to get to the area where the mobile station is needed." Worried about reliability, RTM would only use original MAN parts. His colleague Ahmad Fakhru Izzan Bin Mamat, Jurutera Pemancaran TV, explained "When it comes to after sales service, we see some issues. Third party providers may handle all sorts of vehicles and may therefore not be equipped with the right knowledge and tools to handle things. There have been cases where repairs were done by an independent workshop, resulting in even more damage done to the vehicle as the mechanics didn't know how to do it right." In his view, MAN is an established brand that also brings with it the competence to service and maintain the trucks sold.™

