

Local lift for MG

A PERFORMANCE kit developed in WA is headed for England to make the MG ZT the car many believe it has always deserved to be.

Motor Group Australia and Perth company Sprintex Superchargers are on the verge of signing off on a deal to supply MG Rover with the locally developed high-performance versions of the Rover-bodied MG ZT.

"We are in the final stages of pricing but 500 of the kits are off to England," said Motor Group Australia principal Brad Garlick.

The deal has grown from a program Motor Group Australia started 12 months ago to boost the performance of the MG ZT 180.

The ZT is regarded as having an excellent chassis but lacking power. Motor Group contacted Sprintex and the result is the MG ZT 220S, on display at the Melbourne Motor Show this week. The car will go on sale by the end of March.

The 220S — named for its horsepower — produces 165kW at 6400rpm and 288Nm of torque at 4100rpm, repre-



The Sprintex supercharger sits behind the MG's 2.5-litre V6.

senting a 20 per cent increase in torque and 25 per cent in power. Australian buyers will pay a premium of almost \$10,000 over the base MG ZT.

The cars will come off the boat in Fremantle and be fitted with superchargers in Perth, then be shipped to the new owners.

Initially the 220S will be available only as an automatic.

The next stage is to develop the kit for the manual transmissions and then, possibly, a retro-fit kit.

The ZT 220S will sell for \$69,890 and will be fully new-car warranted.