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BRUCE Holmes, who was appointed chief executive officer of the A1 Grand Prix (A1GP) in December last year, is currently in Singapore on a courtesy call.

The South African was here to also meet with potential sponsors for A1 Team Singapore, who this year are competing in their maiden season in the sport.

In September, Vivian Balakrishnan, the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, said at the launch of the Team Singapore car that the Government was actively looking to bring motorsports back to the country and would consider proposals by A1GP or Formula 1 to hold a race here.

Although Holmes refused to say if he has entered into any talks with officials here about such a proposal, the 34-year-old admitted he would like to see an A1GP race held in Singapore.

He said: "We would love to have a race here. Singapore is not only an obvious choice, it is a preferred option due to the nature of it being a logistic hub for this part of the world.

"The dynamics are right, the location is right but whether we will have a race here or not remains to be seen."

On Friday, Holmes met up with officials of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the government body charged with developing the idea of hosting a motorsports race here.

"We are here to introduce ourselves and our product, that's all," said Holmes.

"But I was encouraged by the mindset of the individuals I spoke to.

"They know what they are talking about, they are up to their game and they have the interests of Singapore at heart. I was very impressed."

If Singapore was interested, Holmes said the earliest it could get on the A1GP calendar was 2008.

"There have to be various studies done,



A1GP boss gives Singapore thumbs up

While only on a 'courtesy call', Holmes says race will thrive here

PHOTO COURTESY OF JORG SUNDERMANN

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— Holmes (right) hopes to see an A1GP race here



including environmental impact analysis," he revealed.

"Realistically, considering planning and the development of certain areas, the 2008-09 season could be a possibility."

Balakrishnan had expressed an interest in a street circuit and Holmes said: "We like a temporary circuit because it has an

atmosphere. It will also help bring the race to the people and not the other way round.

"We want to give people the experience, to let them interact with the drivers and have access to the paddock.

"It is all about putting the people in direct contact with the event."

One thing Holmes can confirm is that he is looking into the possibility of setting up an A1GP base in Singapore.

There are currently 23 countries doing battle in A1GP, out of which nine are from the Asia-Pacific region, including Australia and New Zealand.

"At the moment we have bases in South Africa, London and one in America," he revealed.

"But we want to be closer to our teams and the events in this region as well.

"The Asian base will give our teams the best public relations and marketing support.

"I am encouraged by what I see in Singapore, in terms of the costs, the environment and the safety.

"The place is well managed and from what I have seen in my 24 hours here, the people are really friendly."

Egberime out, the 'Psycho' steps in



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WERNER KERLIN

MAD AUSSIE: Australian champion Delic says Sultan will learn in Singapore why he is called the 'Psycho'.

THE "Showdown in Singapore" contender, Solomon Egberime, has pulled out of his World Boxing Foundation (WBF) world welterweight title fight against Dondon Sultan on Nov 25, after sustaining an injury during training.

Egberime, the Nigerian-born boxer who holds an Australian citizenship, will be replaced by reigning Australian welterweight champion Eddie "Psycho" Delic.

While admitting the news had come as a surprise, fight promoter John Leung said on Friday: "These things happen in boxing and, thankfully, WBF president Mick Croucher has approved a fantastic replacement in Delic."

The match-up between Sultan and Delic promises to be an intriguing battle.

Sultan, whose 14 career victories include nine knockouts, will have his patience tested by the Australian (11 wins, two knockouts), a fighter known for his resilience.

Coming off a recent victory against Paul Tapley on Oct 27 in Brisbane, the 30-year-old Delic said from his Melbourne home that he is relishing his showdown with Sultan.

Delic said: "I am coming fresh off a win and am in great shape.

"Dondon is a tough opponent but I am confident he will soon learn why they call me 'Psycho.'"

— CUBBY LEONG

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E League Champ	Derby	West Bromwich	Sat, 04/11/06 11.00pm
E League Champ	Preston	Luton	Sat, 04/11/06 11.00pm
E League Champ	Plymouth	Birmingham	Sat, 04/11/06 11.00pm
Italian League	Siena	Parm	Sun, 05/11/06 1.00am
S.League	SAF FC	Albirex	Sun, 05/11/06 7.00pm
Italian League	Atalanta	Milan	Sun, 05/11/06 10.00pm
Italian League	Inter	Ascoli	Sun, 05/11/06 10.00pm
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