



Princess Anne in the Kurtsystems viewing cabin



Mehmet Kurt, his son Kaan and the princess

Princess sees pioneering racing innovation

PRINCESS Anne has unveiled a plaque to officially declare open the pioneering Kurtsystems racehorse technology.

The Princess Royal visited Kingwood Stud, Lambourn, last Thursday and was greeted by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, James Puxley.

She was then introduced to the inventor behind the monorail system – 69-year-old Mehmet Kurt and his son Kaan.

Mr Kurt senior is one of Turkey's leading industrialists and racehorse owners who owned the winners of the 1993 and 1999 Turkish Derby.

He bought Kingwood Stud in 2011.

Among the guests were jockeys, owners and trainers, such as Nicky Henderson from Seven Barrows, and West Berkshire Council chairman Quentin Webb (Con, Bucklebury), who said during a previous visit: "Such an innovative idea can only benefit

the horseracing industry."

Mr Puxley said: "It is innovative and will be a real benefit to Lambourn in particular."

Mr Kurt explained he had dedicated 18 years of his life to creating the system, which he described as "one of my proudest achievements".

The Princess Royal was given a ride in a cabin behind the horses to see how the system works firsthand.

She then unveiled a plaque to officially open Kurtsystems, which is designed to revolutionise the industry by eliminating human error from racehorse

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training, thereby minimising injuries and maximising performance.

Princess Anne praised the new system and said the technology represented a "step change" in the industry.

Mr Kurt, who presented the princess with the gift of a miniature bronze horse statue, said the day had been one of the most "remarkable" of his life.

Princess Anne had been due to perform the ceremony in November but bad weather prevented her helicopter from landing and the visit was rescheduled.

The Kurtsystems project allows a horse to be loosely tethered into a monorail 'car' or cabin and led around an all-weather covered track at varying speeds, dependent on its training progress and circumstances.

Everything is closely monitored on CCTV from a central point and staff accompany the cabins on the system.