

# Opportunity makes a thief

John Bradley offers a round-up of some of the latest security measures contractors and hirers can utilise to protect their bottom line

## Datatag Venom

As equipment has become more secure thieves have turned their attention to fuel theft from plant yards and construction sites. Fuel theft is estimated to cost businesses close to a billion pounds a year in the UK alone.

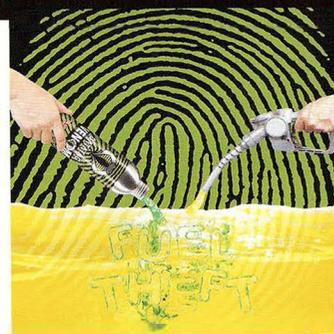
Datatag has taken up the challenge and come up with a solution called VENOM. Using their expertise in providing robust technological solutions, Datatag has developed a new, exclusive and unique forensic DNA identifier, mixed with an engine performance enhancer, which provides a

unique answer to the issue of fuel theft. VENOM is designed to act as a power deterrent against theft, and as an aid to the police in identifying and tracing stolen fuel.

Datatag VENOM DNA can be formulated to give a company, site or an individual bowser a unique DNA profile, providing a level of security and traceability not seen before. This DNA is mixed in the fuel tank, dispensed from a convenient container before filling. The solution can be used in red diesel, DERV and petrol and can be detected by conducting a simple roadside test, allowing the police or security staff to identify where the fuel in a vehicle or machine is from.

### Fuel Theft

Kevin Howells Datatag's Managing Director commented at the launch: "The issue of fuel theft is a billion pound headache for the UK haulage, construction and agriculture industries and causes untold additional costs in delays and environmental clean-up operations. VENOM incorporates all our know-how and allows companies to protect one of their most valuable assets simply and cost effectively. In our opinion this really will be a game changer in the fight against the fuel thieves."



Seumas Ascott, Group Security Manager at Murphy's, an ex-Met Police officer, added, "Fuel theft causes our industry a major headache. It causes severe inconvenience and increases our operating costs. The associated costs arising from fuel theft often far outweigh the cost of the fuel stolen, and so anything which can help avoid these issues is to be welcomed."

Datatag VENOM will be available in commercial quantities from June this year and the company will be exhibiting at Plantworx to spread the word.



## Telematics

Most leading equipment manufacturers now offer integrated telematic systems and several third party suppliers offer systems that can be used in a variety of off-road and on-road equipment. Both types have different strengths and weaknesses but all offer very specific security capabilities.

Telematic systems allow round the clock access, via any internet connected device with a suitable 'app', to accurate and timely information about the location, utilisation and condition of equipment, exactly the kind of information that can make a huge difference in the efficiency and costs of machine ownership and operation. Telematic systems offer huge benefits to both rental companies and end users alike. Typically machine data is available to the machine's owner and the dealer that sold the machine.

The fact that a machine's location and

operating status can be accurately ascertained at any time of the day or night adds to security. Most telematic systems offer users the option of so called 'geo-fence' and 'time fence' alerts. In this mode the machine automatically alerts the owner if the machine is operated (engine started) outside of a specific user defined geographic zone or time period.

A telematic system communicates to the outside world via a 3G or 4G cellular system and/or a satellite communications module. In the first place information is relayed, from the machine, to the manufacturer's system's home secure server, where it's stored and backed up as required. Users with a valid subscription access their machine's data, via an app on any internet enabled device, from the secure server. Information from the machine to the server and then on to the owner happens in 'real time' with real world delays of only a few seconds. Machines equipped with a telematic system do not constantly stream information, rather a 'burst' of updated information is sent to the secure server every 10-15 minutes.



## OnGarde

The police recommend CCTV for permanent and temporary sites and compounds as it is a proven deterrent against theft and vandalism. Mobile, or rapid deployment systems, have a number of advantages in the construction industry compared to fixed systems. As their name suggest they are mobile, which allows them to be deployed for short periods of time and to be placed at strategic locations on sites where the work moves from one area to another over a period of time.

### Mobile Trailer Housing

The OnGarde CCTV system is incorporated into a robust and vandal-proof mobile trailer housing that can be towed with a 4x4. It is easy to install and it can be made operational in a couple of hours, making it suitable for short term contracts. The CCTV camera itself

is mounted on a 6 metre telescopic pole that gives up to a 100 metre viewing range. The camera is a full pan, tilt and zoom (PTZ) type giving a full 360° view. The system is also fitted with powerful white LED lights that are used to illuminate the scene allowing the camera to capture high resolution colour images. An in-built video recording module, with a 250GB hard drive, can record up to 1 months continuous recording at up to 10 frames per second (fps) making it suitable for video evidence in a court of law. The system records video and relays it, in real time, to a remote Video Response Centre.

### Video Content Analysis

One notable, and unique, feature of the OnGarde system is the use of Video Content Analysis (VCA) software. The VCA system can detect intruders or other unusual activity in the line of sight of the camera. The system notifies the remote monitoring service of the alarm that allows staff at the Video Response Centre to see the live video feed and respond accordingly. A new feature allows staff at the Response Centre to use a live audio feed to warn intruders that they have been identified. In other circumstances the

Response Centre would notify the police of a break-in or a crime in progress. Optional green LED lights, that give environmentally friendly illumination, are an option for sensitive applications in urban locations.

A recently introduced 'Hybrid power' station can operate without any external power for up to 6 days, making it ideal for new and remote sites providing first class security, for plant and equipment, before any infrastructure is installed. The OnGarde CCTV tower is an affordable and effective system for the construction industry with a proven track record as a deterrent against theft.

For further information on any of the companies mentioned in this article use the reader enquiry number below

DATATAG VENOM  
CIRCLE READERLINK 071  
ONGARDE  
CIRCLE READERLINK 072  
TELEMATICS SYSTEM  
CIRCLE READERLINK 073