

# BITING BACK AGAINST FUEL THEFT

WITH THIEVES AND ORGANISED CRIMINAL GANGS TARGETING THE PLANT INDUSTRY'S FUEL RESERVES, DATATAG HAS DEVELOPED AN AWARD-WINNING FUEL ADDITIVE WITH A STING IN ITS TAIL. DIGGERS AND DOZERS REPORTS.

With thieves and organised criminal gangs targeting the plant industry's fuel reserves, Datatag has developed an award-winning fuel additive with a sting in its tail. Diggers and Dozers reports. With the move away from single-key machine starting, the adoption of equipment tracking technology and the addition of a wide variety of anti-theft measures, plant and equipment has become harder to steal and easier to trace. But the criminal underworld is nothing if not resourceful, determined and flexible. And rather than moving on to a less well-protected industry sector, criminal gangs and opportunist thieves have turned their attention to the fuel used by the plant sector. Indeed, estimates suggest that fuel theft from plant yards, machine compounds and construction sites costs the industry close to a billion pounds.

## Same Enemy, New Battle

Having fought the thieves on the plant theft battle-front, Datatag ID Limited is now readying itself for a campaign in the fuel theft arena. The provider of technology for the construction industry's CESAR security marking scheme has developed a new anti-theft system for fuel called VENOM. Designed to act as both a powerful deterrent against theft and as an invaluable aid in tracing the origin of fuel, VENOM has the potential to



make the same sort of impact in reducing theft as has the CESAR scheme. VENOM is a new, exclusive and unique forensic DNA identifier. Held in an engine performance enhancer, VENOM is supplied pre-mixed making it easy to 'dose' a fuel tank, large or small. It can be formulated to give a company, a site or an individual fuel bowser a unique DNA profile, providing a level of security and traceability not seen before. VENOM is mixed in the tank, dispensed from a convenient container and it can be used in red diesel, DERV and petrol. The presence of VENOM in a machine's fuel can be detected by conducting a simple roadside test. Subsequent laboratory analysis of a sample will positively identify the unique VENOM DNA code that in turn will identify the fuel's source, allowing the police or security staff to identify where the fuel in a vehicle or machine originated and if its use was legitimate or not. "The issue of fuel theft is a billion pound headache for the UK construction, haulage and agriculture industries and causes untold additional costs in delays and environmental clean-up operations," says Datatag managing director Kevin Howells. "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."

### Award Winner

vVENOM has already been recognised as a unique solution to this growing problem, winning two awards for innovation and 'outstanding achievement' at the CEA's Plantworx Awards ceremony. The system is also finding favour among major plant fleet operators. Ian Elliott, Group Head of Security at utility contractor Clancy Docwra, is enthusiastic about VENOM's potential, "Most contractors suffer fuel theft, and we are no exception, and so anything that helps redress the problem is most welcome. Knowing Datatag's impressive track record I'm convinced that VENOM will have a marked and positive impact in deterring fuel theft by opportunistic and professional thieves." Elliott's views are shared by those of Seumas Ascott, group security manager at Murphy's. "Fuel theft causes our industry major headaches. 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."

