



## Keeping Tabs on Heavy Plant and Construction Equipment

The loss of heavy construction and plant machinery such as backhoes and bobcats due to theft is increasing. In the past, these machines were not secured because it was assumed that they were too big and cumbersome to make an attractive target for thieves, resulting in poor security across the board. Only some equipment can be locked, but universal keys are used which makes locking them pointless. In addition, the wear and tear this equipment is subject to often makes the serial numbers unreadable in a short timeframe, making it hard to identify your kit in the unlikely event you can actually find it.

### Self-powered tracking

"The estimated rate of recovery for this equipment is between 10% and 15%, which may be because of the inability to effectively track these products," says Deon Bayly, MD of Mtrack. "Traditional GPS trackers have proved ineffective because the gangs responsible for stealing this equipment know they have trackers onboard and can easily trace them from the wiring connected to the battery."

### Parking the equipment in basements or under a temporary roof will not block the signal

Deon says Mtrack solves this problem because its tracking device is self-powered, meaning there are no wires connecting to the battery. In addition, it can be hidden anywhere on the machine and can even be moved to a new hiding place at regular intervals.

Mtrack makes use of GSM networks to support its tracking technology, so parking the equipment in basements or under a temporary roof will not block the signal, ensuring it can be tracked to wherever the criminals hide it.

### More than tracking

Taking the technology a step further, MtrackTag can detect proximity, movement and temperature. If a high-value machine moves beyond a certain area

when it should not be, or if it starts overheating, operators can immediately be alerted and action taken before the equipment is lost or damaged. In a yard with many vehicles, tags are read and monitored simultaneously instead of one at a time.

For construction companies needing to manage a large number of vehicles and machines, Mtrack-Fleet takes, allows central management of all the vehicles. Not only does the company know where each vehicle is, but it can gain access to live telemetry such as location, ignition status, trip data, odometer, harsh braking occurrences etc.

### Anywhere in the world

It also empowers effective driver management, such as immobilising the vehicle until the driver is authenticated.

"When using Mtrack, companies gain the level of control over their assets they require," adds Deon. "In addition, there is no software requirement for operators as the reporting and mapping system is completely Web based.

You can, in fact, easily manage your assets from anywhere in the world as long as you have an Internet connection.

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