

[SECURE] Tracking Your Trucking

CHOOSE VEHICLE SECURITY BEST SUITED TO YOUR NEEDS

BY RUSSEL BENNETT

Whether you're running a single small delivery van, or a fleet of transporters constantly on the move, optimising the efficiency of these vehicles through accurate management is critical, and the added benefit of security which comes with a precision tracking solution is vital for some peace-of-mind in our crime-besieged South African landscape. But which one suits your needs best? Let's take a closer look...

1 ALTECH NETSTAR was the first to get dedicated choppers in the air for its recovery operations, and maintains the largest ground recovery force. Netstar is also unique for its three-tier tracking infrastructure, which utilizes GPS for precision signal should be blocked, and finally its own RF (Radio Frequency) technology if worst comes to worst.

The top of the range unit, the Guardian, incorporates features such as a mobile panic button and convenience functions like real-time Web reporting. But for busy fleets, the company's Vigil fleet management solution coupled with its Sleuth or Early Warning Tracker/alarm combo offers a wealth of invaluable data. Through constant data collection, the SA-developed Vigil system is able to

calculate how best to maximize productivity.

At R3 953 for the Sleuth or R4 660 for the Early Warning hardware and installation, plus monthly rates of R226 or R258 respectively for a standalone solution, Netstar is competitively priced but a nonetheless significant investment. Single vehicle fleets will be set back R2 900 for the hardware and R183 a month without a contract.

Browse to www.netstar.co.za for more information or call +2711 207 5005 or +27 860 12 24 36.

2 MATRIX has recently added some appealing new features to its solution set. Its range-topping personal solution, the MX3, and professional fleet management system, the MX4, both now feature the exceptionally useful Logbook, which provides a complete record of annual mileage for tax reporting, and a Service Notification which alerts you and your selected service agent of a need for imminent attention. That's in addition to NoGo Zone alerting, an automated Crash Alert lifesaver, extensive vehicle monitoring and alerting providing a close eye on RPMs used, speeds traveled, harsh braking and accelerating, and more, no matter where your vehicle might travel. Not only can you find out in real-time the exact location of your asset over the Internet, you can have it sent to your cell phone!

On a 12-month contract, Matrix will charge R3 999 for the device and installation and a monthly subscription of R210. Customers can opt for a 36-month contract, ►

◀ eliminating the upfront cost but upping the monthly tariff to R350.

For more information, call Matrix on +27 11 654 8050 or +27 800 339 988, email Lizavdp@matrix.co.za or visit www.matrix.co.za

3 TRACKINGKEY. Some digging into homebrewed vehicle tracking solutions revealed the Tracking-Key, an intriguing alternative for more modest budgets. Although GPS-based, the TrackingKey is not an active tracking system. This isn't about recovering a stolen vehicle's movements. The device is attached to the vehicle using a strong magnet in the casing. It runs on batteries, so it needs not wiring-in to the on-board electrical system. Once ensconced, the TrackingKey simply collects all the data regarding exact locations visited, which with the vehicle in the garage can be uploaded to a PC via the built-in USB interface for a complete record of movement. The data is even compatible with Google Earth, so you can overlay the routes onto the satellite imagery provided by this free service, or generate a detailed text report.

At just R1 995 for the device, and no ongoing service fees, the TrackingKey could be an ideal solution for streamlining your small business delivery system.

Check out www.tuftek.co.za or call +27 11 791 0456 or +27 82 632 9313.

4 SKYGISTICS. If you require the safety implications of an active tracking system, another local vehicle tracking provider called Skygistics is very aggressively priced. Based on the Globalwave

satellite system and also utilizing the GSM network, Skygistics offers coverage spanning Africa and Australia in their entirety.

This solution platform is available as a standalone system or a complete, centrally-managed fleet management package. Not only is the installed unit a tracker, but also a two-way communications system which carries messages and control commands from HZ via the Internet to the operator of the vehicle.

A touch more rudimentary than the more established players, this new product features automated crash alerting, a driver's panic button, geofencing which will alert the designated person responsible should a vehicle stray outside its demarcated zone, and interfaces with the vehicle's digital system to monitor driving and identify potential problem before disaster should strike.

Although the unit pricing itself isn't remarkably affordable at R2 400 for the Slap 'n Track, R5 670 for the MT2000 and R2 170 for the GPRS-based Spyder product, monthly subscription to the Skygistics bureau service comes in at just R58 per month.□

For more information, call Skygistics on +27 682 1600 or visit www.skygistics.com

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