

LATEST NEWS

Microdots for Nissans

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Nissan South Africa has announced that it is to introduce a new security feature on all Nissan vehicles sold in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho.

Aimed at reducing vehicle theft, the laser microdot technology provides each vehicle with its own identification in the form of myriad dots, which are etched onto various parts of the vehicles. Approximately 10 thousand high-tech dots are sprayed onto a minimum of 88 sites on the vehicle, making it difficult for would-be thieves to alter the car's identity.

The sheer number of dots, both in overt and covert locations, effectively provides the vehicle with its own DNA. The dots are only visible under a low-powered microscope or UV light making it difficult to determine where they have been placed.

Nissan is the first vehicle manufacturer in South Africa to implement microdot technology as a standard feature. As from 03 October, microdots will now be applied to all new Nissan vehicles, both locally manufactured and imported.

Business Against Crime reports that typically over 100 000 vehicles are stolen and hijacked annually in South Africa. These vehicles are generally re-registered (53 percent), exported (37 percent) or chopped up for spares (17 percent), with 40 percent being recovered.

The organisation also reports that of the recovered stolen and hijacked vehicles, 40 percent are returned to their owners and the remaining 60 percent are either compacted or used by the State.

Developed originally in the United States to stop the illegal use of counterfeit gaming chips in Las Vegas, microdot technology has expanded into a worldwide product with many applications. Vehicle microdotting was launched by an Australian company and has since been introduced in a number of countries around the world, including the United Kingdom, the United States, Russia, Taiwan and New Zealand. Although it has been applied to more than 80 000 vehicles in South Africa, there is a move for more widespread use of the inexpensive technology, both in new and used vehicles.