



# NEWS



The Associated Press

## Anti-car theft technology debuts at Games

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The Canadian Press

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SURREY, B.C. - A new policing tool that seems straight out of a science fiction movie will be used in the fight against auto crime during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games.

A pilot project with what's called MicroDot DNA technology will be launched as part of a bait car program in parking lots where Olympic visitors will leave their vehicles.

The technology is a new anti-theft system that consists of thousands of microdots about the size of a speck of sand. Each dot is etched with information that allows police to link the item with the break-in.

Sgt. Gord Elias, with IMPACT, or the Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team, said the dots can be attached to anything from spare change to computers left in bait cars.

"It's going to give evidence that really can't be contested in court," he said. "I think the defence lawyers are not going to like this."

The new technology will be found in bait cars at 22 park-and-ride locations, Olympic departing hubs, and Games training centres.

By watching a live video link, police hope to catch thieves from the minute they get behind the wheel or break in to steal items left intentionally in the bait cars.

"The dispatcher, the moment the person opens the door, will be able to see in real time what the person looks like," Elias said.

"Instead of attending the empty bait car like we use to before the live technology, we'll be scouring the area around there looking for somebody with a bag."

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Solicitor General Kash Heed said 250,000 people are expected to take transit each day of the Games, leaving thousands of vehicles unguarded.

"This year, B.C.'s auto crime enforcement month coincides with the largest influx of visitors our province has ever seen," Heed said in a news release.

"Strategic deployment of bait cars, which has cut auto crime by more than half since 2003, will provide drivers with greater peace of mind when they leave their vehicles for the day."

Elias said the team looked for auto crime statistics during previous Olympic Games and couldn't find anything.

But he said it only made sense that thieves would take advantage of Olympic visitors.

Elias said police will keep track of their enforcement blitz during the Olympics and pass it onto police in upcoming Olympic host cities.



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