

UK Marine Police Test mtrack



Marine theft, unlike car theft trends isn't going down. Car theft in the 90's was endemic until the Home Office, the police and the Insurers agreed a series of tough improved security standards to help tackle the problem. Improvements involved independently tested and certified use of dead locks, alarms, immobilisers and tracking systems. Thatcham has long been recognised as an independent vehicle security rating test house. So where's the marine equivalent of Thatcham and could this strategy similarly help reduce marine theft?



Police officers key in mtrack GPS lat / long navigation

Soon the mtrack GPS positions had stopped reporting, this indicated a clever mouse, disappearing out of satellite view. Automatics Kevin Doel explained that mtrack would locate even if hidden from satellites, in a workshop or garage. The mtrack device not only provided GPS data it also detailed the closest GSM phone mast position. From this position a hand held detector would home in to the UHF radio beacon. About one mile from the target GPS position the hand held radio location equipment started to receive the mtrack homing beacon. Within ten minutes the launch reached the target GPS position and tied up at Hamble marina.

Now the radio find operation was required to home in on the mtrack. Richard Taylor from Automatics stepped onto the jetty and then used the radio finder. Within 15 minutes the mtrack was located, it had been hidden inside the marina office placed behind the cash register.



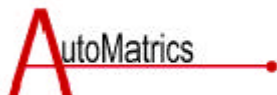
All aboard time to recover a Stolen RIB

One new marine theft protection system provided by Solent based company Automatics is currently being evaluated by Hampshire Constabulary Marine Police. Mtrack, of Norwegian origins is waterproof, battery operated, with GPS, GSM and UHF location tracking capability. The system is also Thatcham accredited, so is recognised by Insurers for discounts etc.

As part of the Marine Police evaluation on the 14 August 08 mtrack was tasked to perform a RIB theft simulation cat and mouse exercise through the Solent.

The mouse a 6 metre Police RIB capable of 35 knots was firstly tracked using GPS, heading for Hamble estuary. The cat a seven year old Police launch purred along at a more leisurely 18 knots.

Stolen RIB recovered by Mtrack



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