

News Release - FAO: «Editor\_contact»

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### **Cyclops ANPR System Helping Victims of Car Theft**

Cyclops ANPR Systems Ltd (<http://www.cyclops-stolen-car-finder.co.uk>) is launching a new service this month to help car owners trace their stolen vehicles using ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) technology.

Around 200,000 cars are stolen in the UK each year, costing the owners a great deal of money and inconvenience. Around 43% of these vehicles are stolen from outside the owners' homes. Searching for a stolen vehicle is like looking for a needle in a haystack. With its lack of resources, the police force does not have the necessary time to look for missing cars.

Now, victims of car theft have another way of finding their missing vehicles. The Stolen Car Finder service allows car owners to register their stolen vehicle details on the Cyclops database. Using postcode intelligence, the Cyclops ANPR vehicles will then start looking for the missing vehicles.

Each Cyclops vehicle is fitted with up to 4 ANPR cameras. As they drive through the streets, the cameras pick up and check registration numbers against the database of stolen vehicles. The cameras record the number plates of moving and stationary vehicles, including those parked on driveways. When a number plate is recognised as being on the wanted list, an alarm sounds inside the Cyclops vehicle, alerting the operative to its presence. A digital image is also recorded of the vehicle. Once the vehicle has been found, the police and the owner are informed of its exact location, allowing them to recover it.

As a precaution, car owners can register their vehicle on the Cyclops Stolen Car Finder database. The details remain dormant, but will be activated if the owner tells Cyclops the car has been stolen. A window sticker is provided for each registered vehicle stating it will be tracked by ANPR if stolen. This will act as a deterrent to would-be car thieves, knowing it will be tracked immediately.

To safeguard users, all the Cyclops ANPR staff operating the systems are Certified Bailiffs. The company, which is based in Gillingham, Kent, has ANPR vehicles operating all across the country. Due to the high incidence of car theft in the London area, Cyclops works extensively in London and the South East. The company also tracks missing vehicles for Finance and Leasing companies.

John Carle, Managing Director of Cyclops ANPR Systems says, "Many motorists are wary of ANPR systems. They see it as something negative. This is a positive use for the ANPR technology. It supports the motorist instead of working against them."

The cost of registering a stolen vehicle on the Cyclops system is £35 inclusive of VAT. Owners wishing to register their cars in advance also pay the one-off fee of £35. This 'membership' lasts for as long as they are the owner of the vehicle. Cyclops will also accept registrations from company fleets, commercial vehicles, and HGVs.

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#### Note to Editors

Cyclops ANPR Systems is based in Gillingham, Kent. The company's fleet works across the UK. Each of the Cyclops ANPR vehicles is manned by a Certified Bailiff. Other Certified Bailiffs may also work under licence to Cyclops.

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