



## DataDotDNA helps Australian Police bust theft racket Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2005

A NSW theft racket has been cracked with the help of the micro-identification technology DataDotDNA, DataDot Technology Ltd CEO Ian Allen said today.

Mr Allen said that last week the NSW Police recovered 150 stolen tyres and wheels believed to be stolen from car boots, along with eight laptop computers and other valuable items.

The stolen goods were being on sold to unsuspecting buyers on the online marketplace EBay.

"Fortunately, the majority of the wheels and tyres were from Subaru models protected by DataDotDNA," Mr Allen said.

Mr Allen said DataDotDNA are laser-etched with individual vehicle VIN numbers, and around 10,000 are sprayed on to every car and its wheels.

"To prove the tyres and wheels were stolen, the Police just had to read the VIN on the DataDotDNA."

Mr Allen said that DataDotDNA can be detected with UV light, and their laser-etched code read with a simple magnifying device – no complicated forensic investigation is needed.

"Whilst the thieves were able to bypass security systems on the vehicles in order to gain access to their boots, they were caught out by the DataDotDNA."

The police investigation was a joint operation between the St George Local Area Command and the NSW Property Crime squad.

Detectives seized what they referred to as "a large amount of property" after executing search warrants at houses in Westmead and Riverwood.

"The police have described the crime as the work of a well organised gang of thieves," Mr Allen said.

"A 27-year-old Sydney man has now been charged with 35 different offences relating to the crime. Further arrests are expected soon."

Mr Allen said this is the first major arrest in NSW using DataDotDNA as the key means by which stolen property is identified.

The NSW Police were then able to setup a hotline number, so people could reclaim their stolen wheels.