



UK Marine Police Test Chip and Trace Pro



Marine theft, unlike car theft trends are not 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?



All aboard time to recover a Stolen RIB

Our new marine theft protection system provided by Chip and Trace is currently being evaluated by Hampshire Constabulary Marine Police. Chip and Trace Pro, 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 Chip and Trace Pro was tasked to perform a RIB theft simulation cat and mouse exercise through the Solent.

The mouse a 6 metre 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.



Police officers key in Chip and Trace GPS lat / long

Soon the Chip and Trace GPS positions had stopped reporting, this indicated a clever mouse, disappearing out of satellite view.

Nick Byatt from Chip and Trace explained the system would locate even if hidden from satellites, in a workshop or garage. The 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 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 unit. Richard Taylor from Automatrix stepped onto the jetty and then used the radio finder. Within 15 minutes the Chip and Trace Pro unit was located, it had been hidden inside the marina office placed behind the cash register.

Chip and Trace Pro recovered in Hamble in 15 minutes.



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