THE first Detection Dog in the world to be trained to sniff out forensic markings on stolen metal is set to help police officers crack down on metal theft in the UK.

A two-year old black Labrador called Jazz has been trained by former Police Officer and Home Office Police Dog Instructor Mick Swindells to locate SelectaDNA forensic markings on a range of metals including copper, lead and aluminium.

Metal theft is costing the UK economy approximately £770m a year and there are about 1,000 incidents reported each week. Complementing existing police search procedures, Jazz is able to sniff for stolen metal in places like scrap yards, where metal is often piled high and any containing forensic markings is not immediately visible to the human eye.

Mick Swindells, who started his company Search Dogs UK after retiring as a police officer for Lancashire Constabulary, said: “Jazz is a world-first. She has been trained to sniff out SelectaDNA, which is a unique covert security marker being used by more than three quarters of UK Police forces to track down burglars, robbers and metal thieves and bring them to justice.”

He continued: “As humans we can only search in 2D ie. in the line of sight, but dogs can search in 3D by using their noses. They can be incredibly accurate, and can pinpoint their target to within a couple of centimetres.

“Jazz is able to touch the marked metal with her nose identifying the target scent of SelectaDNA, allowing officers to move in at this point and make further investigations.”

James Brown from Selectamark, added: “Using a trained dog like Jazz to sniff out stolen metal marked with SelectaDNA is surely the ultimate search tool for police and any other investigators determined to catch metal thieves and other types of offenders.”
Deutsche Bahn Reports Arrests

GERMAN rail operator Deutsche Bahn (DB) has reported the arrest of two metal thieves in Neunkirchen, Saarland, after they tried to sell cable belonging to the company to a scrap metal dealer.

The dealer was immediately suspicious when he saw the cable and alerted local police. The police established the cable was forensically marked and this allowed them to link it back to DB. The two men were subsequently arrested and taken into custody.

Metal thefts from Deutsche Bahn can be linked to the sharp rise in the price of copper. As a result, DB has initiated a package of measures against metal theft including the use of DNA to mark vital rail track, cable and infrastructure.

Gerd Neubeck, Head of Group Security at Deutsche Bahn, said: “Non-ferrous metal thefts have a major impact on our customers who are affected when routes are blocked and trains are late. The use of DNA makes it more likely that thieves will get caught.”

Preserving Heritage In Dutch Town

ALL bronze statues in the town of Beuningen in the Netherlands are being sprayed with SelectaDNA Trace after two valuable metal artworks were stolen from the region. The unique code in the spray means that local police can pinpoint exactly where the metal comes from, increasing their chances of catching metal thieves.

SPANISH electrical firm Red Electrica de Espana, which provides the country with a unified national power grid, has initiated a project using SelectaDNA to mark wiring and other items of metal infrastructure at the Viladecans substation in Barcelona following incidents of copper theft from the site.

Spanish Substation Puts Trace To The Test

French national railway SNCF has also chosen SelectaDNA Trace to protect track and cable from metal theft on the TGV Paris-Nord line; and Randstad Rail in the Netherlands is using the product on its lines connecting The Hague with Zoetermeer and Rotterdam.
Heightened Security For Open Plan Banking

WHEN the National Australia Bank (NAB) chose a new open plan layout for their branches, they had to rethink certain aspects of their security.

With the removal of traditional barriers from the cashier area, the NAB recognised a higher level of vulnerability for staff and customers and introduced new security measures to counter this additional risk.

NAB has chosen the high-tech SelectaDNA Spray system to compliment their existing suite of security measures. The spray provides a passive security option which when activated, douses fleeing robbers with a synthetic DNA-laced mist providing irrefutable evidence that links the offender to the crime scene.

NAB’s flagship branch in Docklands, Melbourne, is the first to deploy the DNA Spray.

In conjunction with additional warning signage, the SelectaDNA Spray system deters would-be-thieves from entering the premises, stopping any potential robbery from taking place.

NAB’s New Zealand counterpart, The Bank of New Zealand, already uses SelectaDNA Spray across their 181 stores. Figures for 2011/2012 show that since the installations were completed, the bank has experienced the lowest number of robberies in the past five years.

AFTER rigorous independent testing, industry-respected Benchmark magazine awarded SelectaDNA Spray an impressive 85% rating and gave it a Recommended status.

The report’s overall verdict is that “SelectaDNA offers a very real benefit that intruder alarm systems alone cannot deliver, and as such it has to be recommended.”

A full version of the report is available online at: www.benchmarkmagazine.com
Nightclub Bag Theft Clipped

The clips, which are designed to secure bags under tables to keep them out of reach, were suggested to nightclub managers by North Wales Police as a way of deterring bag theft in the area.

Bags can be easily secured by the Clip, but a thief would need two hands to release it, making it more difficult to be discreet and taking more time to commit the crime, running the risk of being caught.

Signage is being used to advertise the use of the Clips under tables, which local police think has been a deterrent in itself.

‘Street A Week’ Initiative Tackles Burglary

OFFICERS from a Westminster Safer Neighbourhoods Team in London have been involved in a joint initiative with the local council to eliminate burglaries in the area.

The ‘Street a Week’ initiative involves visiting one street each week to engage with the local community, offer crime prevention advice and hand out SelectaDNA property marking kits.

The scheme follows a rise in burglary on the Bryanston and Dorset ward between January 2012 and June 2012, an increase of 35% compared to the same period in 2011.

Sgt Chris Wilson of the Bryanston and Dorset Square SNT said: “To date no burglary has been committed in a street that has had the benefit of a ‘Street a Week’ visit. It is our intention to continue this initiative until all streets on the ward have been visited.”

Sgt Wilson continued: “One of the items we are handing out is a SelectaDNA kit. These kits are a very efficient and robust way of permanently marking and registering property which enables police to rapidly identify and return stolen property.

“The more significant aspect of these kits is that thieves are aware of the qualities of SelectaDNA and avoid stealing items marked with such a product. The deployment of SelectaDNA will do much to prevent crime within the ward.”
The Regenda Group, which has around 13,000 properties across the North West, is using SelectaDNA as a deterrent to metal thieves and to provide police with evidence of theft.

Chris Dale, Head of Property Services at Regenda said: “Over the past year, 10 of our empty properties in Oldham have been targeted by thieves. It is potentially very dangerous, especially where pipes or cabling are taken if gas, water and electricity supplies are left live.

“There isn’t just the risk to our residents to consider – we’ve estimated that it has cost us over £40,000 to replace stolen boilers, rectify water damage from pipes left leaking and to provide secure systems to prevent further thefts. It is also having a detrimental effect on the estate as empty properties now have to be boarded up, damaging the reputation of the neighbourhood.”

Posters and stickers are being displayed around the Oldham estate to raise awareness of the new SelectaDNA scheme among residents and to deter potential metal thieves from operating in the area.
Select & Design Your Own Labels

A NEW website has been launched for SelectaLabel, the Selectamark permanent marking and asset labels brand.

Deterring Asian Gold Theft

THIEVES who target the Asian community for gold were the subject of a recent event organised by Thames Valley Police at the Aylesbury Mosque in Buckinghamshire.

As part of the event, Neighbourhood Officers handed out SelectaDNA forensic marking equipment which allows them to identify stolen property including valuable jewellery and gold items and trace it back to the original owner.

Local Neighbourhood Officer, PC Glen Crosland, said: “Thieves targeting people for gold is a problem nationally and we don’t want it to become a problem in Aylesbury. This is all about prevention and putting in place measures that can stop people from committing these crimes.”

Imtiaz Bhatti, a member of the local Asian community, said: “Gold is valuable and the little bit I do have I would like to protect however I can. I have not suffered a burglary myself but I have friends and heard of friends of friends who have suffered. I think these criminals are very organised and everyone should use one of these kits because it sounds like a great idea.”

On Track To Protect F1 Equipment

Selectamark’s most secure label is the TESA Security Label which comes in black with white text and can include barcoding if required. The TESA material has an extremely strong adhesive and is the most durable label option.

For that reason, it has been chosen for use by the Federation Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA) to mark electronic equipment in kit travelling the world for the Formula 1 Grand Prix.
No Burglaries In Two Years At £25 Million School

TWO years after the opening of a new ‘super’ secondary school on the Wirral that marked all of its high-value ICT equipment with SelectaDNA there have been no thefts or break-ins reported.

The new-build £25 million Woodchurch High School in Carr Bridge Road, Wirral, is a large co-educational comprehensive secondary school with 1,300 pupils and more than 100 teaching staff. School facilities are also available to members of the public for evening classes.

Before the school opened its gates for the first time in September 2010, the on-site facilities management team marked all of the school’s state-of-the-art ICT equipment including PCs, laptops and other electronic equipment using SelectaDNA.

Ian Lowrie from Wirral Council’s Community Safety Team said: “We were looking for a product that would not only stop theft happening – but prevent burglars even attempting theft in the first place.”

Aside from Woodchurch, more than 60 schools on Wirral are currently using SelectaDNA to protect valuable equipment such as computers, laptops and overhead projectors. The solution doesn’t damage the marked property in any way.

Pete May, a member of the facilities management team at Woodchurch said: “We are very pleased to be able to say that there have been no incidents of theft or burglaries on site since the school opened.

“All our ICT equipment is marked with SelectaDNA and we continue to use the warning stickers that are supplied with each kit on every piece of equipment we mark. We believe this is acting as a very effective deterrent against burglary.”

Bike Theft Reduced By 44%

OFFICERS from Hounslow Safer Transport Team (STT) have been working hard to deter bike thieves on their patch and have successfully reduced bike theft in Chiswick (a particular hotspot area) by 44%.

The officers have been marking bikes since 2011 with BikeRegister (www.bikeregister.com), the UK’s leading online bicycle registration initiative, which is owned and managed by Selectamark plc.

Rare Brompton Recovered

ACTING Police Sergeant Craig Monks and colleagues from Hounslow STT recently recovered a rare orange Brompton cycle which had been stolen from the Brompton Bicycle Factory in Brentford, Middlesex.

The foldable bike was discovered at the home of a known bike thief and as it had been marked by police, was instantly traceable back to the factory.

The factory owner was said to be very pleased with the recovery as he described the bike as “unique and priceless.”
POST BOXES in North Wales are being sprayed with SelectaDNA Trace to protect them from being stolen in an innovative scheme funded by the Royal Mail.

PC Hazel Goss MBE, community safety officer for Flintshire, has been responsible for marking the cast iron boxes, which have been continually targeted by metal thieves in recent months.

One incident involved thieves stealing an entire post box and making off with the door of another one near the village of Llay in rural Wrexham.

PC Goss said: “By using SelectaDNA to mark boxes in Wrexham and Flintshire we are aiming to reduce and deter metal theft in these areas. The unique DNA code in the spray indicates that the post box belongs to Royal Mail, making any attempts to sell on these stolen boxes for scrap very difficult indeed.”

She continued: “Warning stickers have been placed on all the boxes to indicate they are now marked, which should prove an added deterrent.

“No not only is it expensive to replace stolen post boxes, but it is also very inconvenient for members of the local community who are not able to post letters where they used to or who may have lost items when the boxes were stolen. We are determined to crackdown on this latest crime wave as soon as possible.”

For more information visit www.selectadna.co.uk or contact +44 (0)1689 860757

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