CASE STUDY: CASH AND VALUABLES IN TRANSIT

Prior to 2007, robberies of cash and valuables in transit (CVIT) vehicles that supply retailers, banks and other financial services were on the rise. Though the use of technologies such as staining inks within cashboxes were already widespread in the industry, tracing bank notes back to a specific robbery remained problematic for the police. This was often of crucial importance, as the circumstances of a robbery could have a massive impact upon sentencing - particularly if violence or weapons were used, or where stained bank notes were identified as having been stolen from more than one robbery.

HEIGHTENED TRACEABILITY
Adding SmartWater® traceable liquids into CVIT cashbox systems changed the environment in which thieves operated. Two types of cashboxes have been fitted with SmartWater and deployed by the CVIT sector:

DYE STAINING CASHBOXES
Covers banknotes in a permanent staining ink when forcibly opened. The staining ink contains a SmartWater forensic taggant unique to the cashbox. This allows for stolen banknotes to be linked back to the crime scene.

GLUE CASHBOXES
When forcibly opened the cashbox releases a liquid that binds all of the notes together into a solid block. The liquid contains a SmartWater taggant unique to the cashbox so the glue-bonded notes inside can be traced back to where they came from.

ACHIEVING RESULTS
SmartWater has proven itself to be a very effective means of linking criminals to the scene of a specific robbery, ensuring there is sufficient evidence for the Court to hand down appropriate sentences:
- From 2008 - 2014 over 500 separate police investigations have benefitted from positive evidential submissions made to SmartWater laboratories in relation to CVIT robberies
- Forensic submissions to SmartWater’s laboratories have been made by 16 regional police forces
- Over 250 convictions have been aided by SmartWater forensic evidence
- Over 950 years of jail time have been handed down by the Courts in SmartWater-related cases.

TESTIMONIAL
“Since 2009 we have seen a marked decrease in the number of across-the-pavement robberies experienced by Cash and Valuables in Transit couriers. This reduction can be partially attributed to the forward thinking of the courier companies themselves, developing, via the BSIA SaferCash initiative, closer liaison and intelligence sharing with police and introducing a number of anti-robbery products and measures, such as SmartWater. These products have provided additional layers of evidence to the police, assisting conviction rates and creating an added deterrent.”

Steve Hurst, Head of SaferCash, BSIA