

Vehicle security, asset tracking

THE commercial vehicle and transport sector that was hit particularly hard during the recession has had to implement major changes and fleet owners have been forced to focus on efficient management of their vehicles.

Not only that but the current increase in cargo versus vehicle theft has posed additional chal-

lenges for fleet managers and is expected to continue. Fuel theft is but one such challenge.

Brendan Horan, general manager sales and marketing for MiX Telematics, says there is an understanding that it is far more lucrative to hijack trucks than cars which has led to an increase in this type of crime.

MiX Telematics, a global provider in fleet management and telematics solutions, has been tracking these trends and offering fleet management and security solutions to fleet managers.

"Through the implementation of intelligent telematics, vehicle tracking and fleet management solutions, fleet managers are achieving more efficient usage of their existing fleet and

achieving excellent cost savings while managing security threats," says Horan.

"Managers are looking for solutions which allow for active fleet management in real time, delivering accurate meaningful data and facilitating sound decision making."

"Telematics has the potential to fundamentally change the way in which fleets are managed but locally, the integration of telematics into fleet management has been far slower than in the rest of the world," says Horan.

Horan says commercial telematics solutions have proven themselves as tools for fundamentally changing the way fleets are managed. "They are not potential changers, they are proven changers."

Given the importance of on-time delivery and the high cost of fuel, knowing exactly where vehicles are and monitoring their drivers seem like definite advantages in an industry where profit margins are habitually low.

As a fleet manager, having information about every aspect of an individual vehicle trip can greatly assist in the planning and managing of fleet operations.

Perhaps one of the greatest advantages of telematics to fleet operators is the improved security it provides.

Horan says that fleet management solutions, designed specifically for this sector, can substantially reduce accident rates; drive improvements in fuel economy and CO2 emissions and lower maintenance costs.

