

Accessories Galore

By Frank S. Washington

Auto Software That Can Do It All



One of Europe's leading software developers, SmartMove NV, has developed what it calls a fully functional Java- based open software solution for an automobile's entire telematics pipeline. In layman's language, that means the system can accommodate any new programs -- Internet access, voice activation, touch screen operation or satellite radio. The system will also store relevant billing, security and authentication software. And it is "future proof," which means it can accommodate changing technologies. Now, according to SmartMove, 80 percent of development time and money can be spent on content, rather than the other way around. For more information visit www.smartmove-us.com.

Auto Theft Device



Though hi-tech is always reaching new altitudes, there is something to be said for low-tech. In this case, it is Disklock of San Gabriel, Calif. The company has created an anti-theft device that covers the entire steering wheel, preventing theft of the vehicle and the driver-side air bag. Disklock is made from a 12-gauge, heat treated

steel shell, weighs 8.5 lbs and uses a six-pin, ultra hardened cylinder lock with three coded keys. This may seem like over-kill, but security experts can dislodge the thing in a little more than 10 minutes. However, they say that car thieves don't want to spend more than two minutes stealing a car or its air bag. Visit www.disklock.com for more info.

Paint That Changes With Lighting



One of the biggest sellers in the aftermarket has always been paint. And ChromaFlair is a paint that is catching on with those folks who want something special in the color of their vehicles. Or, should it be *colors* of their vehicles? That's because ChromaFlair, developed by Flex Products of Santa Rosa, Calif., uses layered pigments that reflect light. The result gives ChromaFlair the ability to change colors depending on the light and the angle from which the vehicle is viewed. About 15 brands of ChromaFlair enhanced paint are currently sold worldwide. Visit www.Colorshift.com for more info.

Tire Pressure Monitor

In the wake of the recent recall of millions of Firestone tires, tire safety is



in the uppermost consciousness of the driving public. Johnson Control has developed a market-ready system that is meant to ease some of the concern. It is a tire pressure monitoring system, which includes an integrated display in the rear view mirror. As a dealer-installed accessory, the system provides warning alerts and readouts about low tire pressure that can be seen on display in the rear view mirror. The system will also sound an alert. Johnson Controls began marketing the PSI mirror at the beginning of this year. Visit www.johnsoncontrols.com for more information.

Universal Cell Phone System



Cellport Systems has developed a voice activated cell phone system that can be used in any vehicle and with any cell phone. It has a universal docking system and phone specific pocket adapters that accept a wide range of cell phones. While research found that 79 percent of cell phone owners change phones every 18 months, they only purchase a new vehicle every seven years. The Cellport system was shown at SEMA in two General Motors concept vehicles, the Chevrolet Avalanche Base Camp and the GMC Savana Pro van. Visit www.cellport.com for more information.