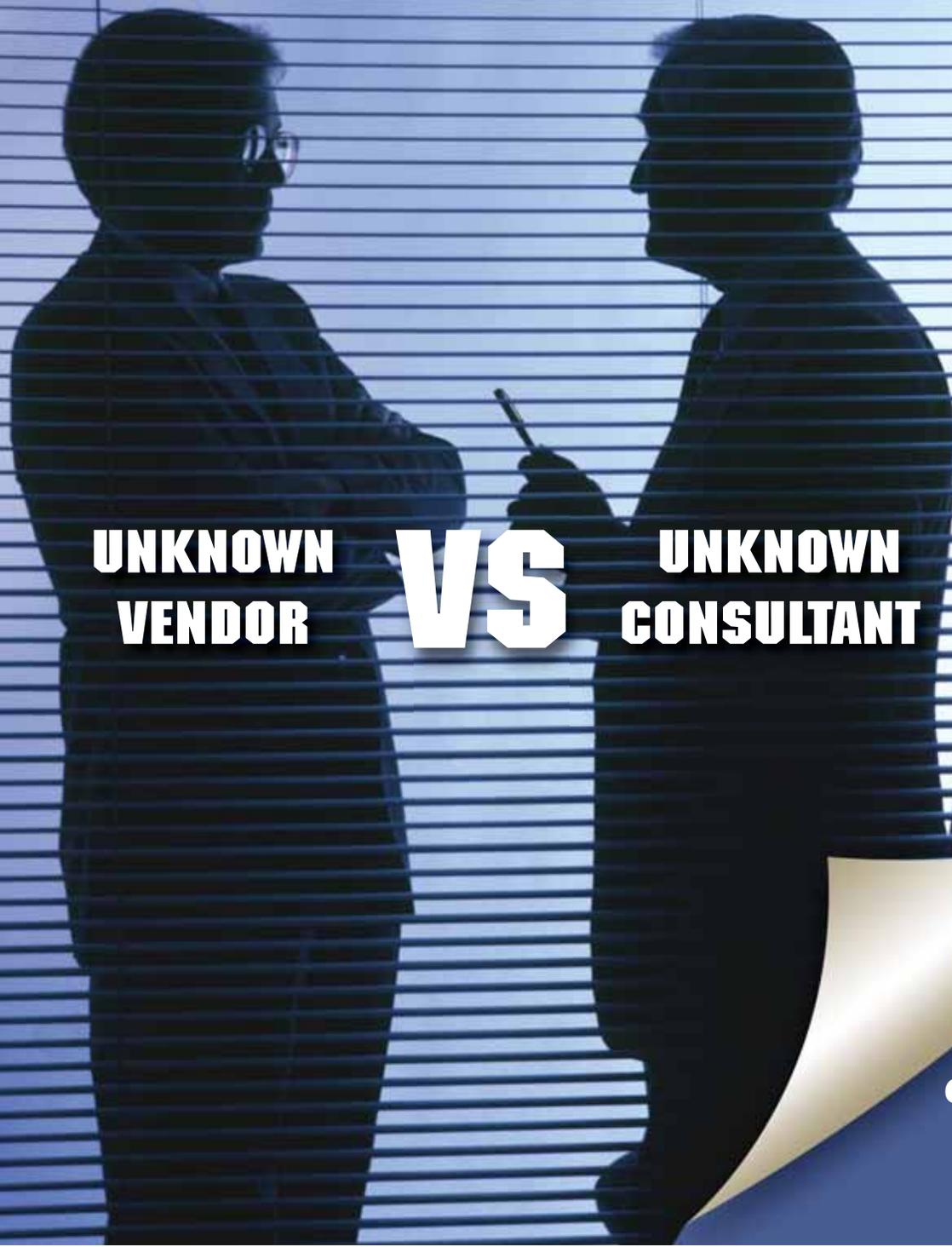


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Volume 13, Number 11-November 2008

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See Page 28



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PARKING TODAY

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Valium, Wig Shops, Dubai, and Feeding the Meter ...

BY JOHN VAN HORN

A Bellevue, OH, woman allegedly tried selling a prescription drug in order to be able to pay for her parking fees at a local hospital. Susan Hardy, 47, was charged with misdemeanor attempted drug trafficking after her arrest at University Hospital, according to the local newspaper. Hardy allegedly approached a person in the emergency room and offered to sell one diazepam pill (a generic Valium). That person then told University of Cincinnati police. Hardy then allegedly told the officer she was trying to sell the pill so she could get money to get out of a parking garage.

I can sympathize. Sometimes you are cash poor and there is no solution except to go into business for yourself. However, one should be a bit more discerning about what you are selling. She probably didn't know that she could get out of the garage by simply telling the attendant she had no money and would be back later to pay. She might have to leave her tire iron, but hey, she would have been on her way.

People trust you when you tell them the truth. Funny how that works. On the other hand, if she had just filled a Valium prescription, she may have been under a lot of pressure and wasn't thinking too clearly. It was perhaps better she wasn't driving.

When I read about downtowns such as the one in Evansville, IN, it just ticks me off. Gadzooks, they built a mall on the outskirts of town and, guess what, people went to shop there. I wonder why? There were a lot of stores with neat stuff, restaurants, bars, probably covered and air-conditioned. Why would someone want to go there when they could go downtown and visit empty storefronts, wig shops and the odd used-book store.

It took 40 years for a bit of a change to come and it's beginning in Evansville, but it will move slowly. There are loft buildings being converted to condos and apartments so people can actually live downtown. A few shops and bars and restaurants are opening up, and maybe they will succeed.

Oh, get off it. If you build it, they will come. The downtown needs a 10-plex stadium-seating theater, a bunch of shops and restaurants, places for people to meet, walk, sit, and watch the passing scene (you know, like at the mall). How 'bout evening concerts, dances, art shows, antique-car exhibits – you get the idea, like at the mall.

People will go downtown in droves if there is a reason for them to do so.

Fund it? Simple. Charge for parking and use the money to

clean up the area, provide the services, lower taxes, new infrastructure, etc. They did it in Pasadena, CA; they can do it in Evansville.

PT's sister publication, **Parking World**, is on the streets in Australia and New Zealand and will soon be expanded to the Pacific Rim. I actually haven't seen it at this writing, but I am told by our staff in Oz that it's "awesome." You can check it out on line at www.parkingworld.com. Don't be too critical of the website, Suda and Andy are working hard on it. It's a complete redesign, so we can quickly and easily add and change content to keep up with the worldwide parking news. Congratulations to Aussies Michelle and Jolyon on their fantastic first effort in **Parking World**.

The Road and Transportation Department of Dubai, UAE, was to turnoff parking charges for the Eid al-Fitr holidays. It will be interesting to see the results. In November, I am

speaking just up the road in Abu Dhabi and hopefully some of the Dubai folks will be there and I can ask them about their "gift" to the community. My guess is that this will cause chaos in the city, there will be a dearth of parking spaces, and next year people will be demanding that charges be kept in place. We shall see.

A system of sensors monitoring on-street parking has been installed as a test in Fort Worth, TX. Some citizens are upset because, among other things, the sensors "reset" the meters when a car leaves the space. This means you can't use the time left over from the previous parker. And since the sensor knows when you arrived and when you leave (if you leave), the rule that you can't "feed" the meter actually can be enforced.

One fellow called the new technology "a crock." He also was someone who worked downtown and liked to park his car on the street, feed the meter, and take up valuable space that should have been kept for merchants' customers.

In addition to meter resetting, the sensors provide statistical data as to length of stays and the actual amount of tickets that are never written (people who overstay the meters and aren't caught). And they give the city solid information to be used for pricing and the like.

These systems are springing up across the country, in large cities and small towns. San Francisco and Los Angeles have tests going, and small towns on the Jersey Shore are using the sensors to justify keeping parking charges during the off-tourist season. With good statistical data, the parking chiefs can go to the city council and prove that parking needs to be controlled during times that simple observational data would note that it doesn't.

The problem with on-street monitoring is that unless the

Continued on Page 8



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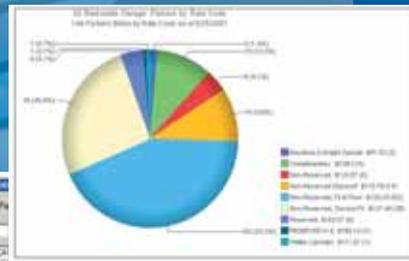
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Mike Pendergraft, President and CEO of **American Valet**, has opened a new self-parking surface lot in Nogales, AZ, next to the border. He's done many upgrades on the lot, and it has speakers and security cameras, and is completely automated. He has installed a **Scheidt & Bachmann** chip coin system. He also offers a shuttle that takes passengers to and from the border at no extra charge.

Reino International, a specialized provider of parking and traffic manage-

ment solutions, has named **Trent Loebel** as regional manager of the Asia-Pacific market. Reino International is the Australian counterpart of Duncan Solution's product division, Duncan Technologies. He brings more than 14 years of management experience to his new position. Loebel also has a strong background in building and maintaining relationships and in financial account management.

Hoffmann Architects, an architectural and engineering firm specializing in the

rehabilitation of building exteriors, welcomes new staff. **Courtney R. Minter** joins the firm as a Project Representative. As a new Project Manager with Hoffmann Architects, **Daniel R. Salazar** brings over 20 years of experience in all phases of architectural investigation, programming, design, document production, and construction administration. **Dean Yates, Assoc. AIA** joins the company's Washington, DC office as Project Coordinator.

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Point of View

from Page 6

spaces are covered with a sensor that tracks just how long a car is in place, there is virtually no way of knowing how long people park, and during what periods the parking is full or there are spaces available.

Observation doesn't work. When you observe a car present, you don't know whether it "just arrived" or had been sitting there for hours. In addition, unless you observe the car leaving, how would you know when it left?

The sensors track all that data and then upload it to a central database through the handheld PDA's carried by parking management personnel or, in some cases, a wi-fi online network. The data then can be reviewed by the parking staff and used to make knowledgeable plans.

In one case, a mayor demanded that the downtown parking be extended to four hours. He commented that people needed that time for theaters and lingering lunches. The stats provided by the sensor system showed that the average "dwell time" of cars on-street was about 50 minutes. The one-hour rules were kept in force.

A local wag noted that the mayor's wife ran a quilting class downtown that lasted four hours. Funny how these things happen.

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PEOPLE IN PARKING

from Page 8

Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc. (SGH) has been named a “2008 Best Firm to Work For” by Structural Engineer and CE News magazines for the fourth consecutive year. As revealed last month at the “2008 Best Firms Summit” held by ZweigWhite in San Francisco, SGH is ranked 2nd best firm to work for among large structural engineering firms in the U.S. and 9th among all structural firms in the country. SGH is also ranked 3rd best firm to work for among mid-sized civil engineering firms and 12th among all civil firms.

Carl Walker, Inc. is pleased to announce the promotion of several executives throughout the company—five new senior vice presidents and one new executive vice president: **David Kent**, CPA, Senior VP Finance and Administration, **Michael C. Ortlieb**, P.E., Executive VP, **Tim D. Christie**, PE, Senior VP, New Parking Structures, **Jim Van Husen**, PE, Senior VP, Marketing and Sales, **L. Dennis Burns**, CAPP, Senior VP, Studies and Operations Consulting, and **Mark A Postma**, PE, Senior Vice President, Restorations.

DESMAN Associates is pleased to announce the addition of **Hoshi Engineer**, P.E., S.E., as an Associate Vice President and the head of DESMAN’s Denver office. Engineer brings with him over 20 years of parking garage design and restoration experience.

McMahon Associates, a full-service transportation engineering and planning firm with more than 32 years of service, has added **Anthony J. Castellone**, P.E., PTOE, as senior project manager to its Traffic Engineering Department. He draws on more than

24 years of professional experience, with a wide range of expertise in all phases of intelligent transportation systems design, transportation planning analysis, highway capacity analysis, traffic signal design and coordinated system signal timing.

McCarthy Building Cos. has completed construction on Glendale (CA) Community College’s first parking structure. The \$26.1 million facility has six levels, including one below grade, with 1,169 spaces for cars. McCarthy also completed work on 101 new surface spaces in an adjacent lot. Since the 336,180-square-foot facility is situated on a hillside, construction required custom formwork to support the placement of concrete on the hill. The result is a structure where vehicles can enter from the hillside directly onto the first four floors. Designed by **International Parking Design** of Sherman Oaks, CA, the project features a \$2.8 million solar panel system on the fourth and sixth levels.

Doug Coenen, P.E., has joined **Walter P Moore** as Managing Director of its Houston Civil Engineering group. His broad range of management and design experience includes federal, state, municipal and private infrastructure engineering projects.

WPS North America has added **Tim Morris** to its California offices as General Manager West USA. He has been a successful business owner and equipment reseller in the parking and security industry for more than 28 years, having successfully installed and maintained more than 400 parking control systems in California. He can be reached at tmorris@wps-na.com.

Finrock Construction has been selected as design/builder for the parking garage in support of the new courthouse complex in

Continued on Page 12



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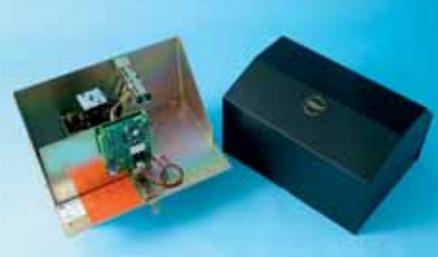
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PEOPLE IN PARKING

from Page 10

Kissimmee, FL. The \$3 million contract was awarded to Finrock when its design and construction proposal provided more spaces at reduced cost. Construction is scheduled for a December 2008 start with a March 2009 completion date.

Towne Park has acquired **Mile Hi Valet Services** in a move that brings two outstanding companies together to offer industry-leading service and financial

results. The combined organization is the national leader in hospitality staffing and parking solutions, including valet parking, door and bell services, and parking management systems. "This merger is a key step toward our goal of providing best-in-class service to the national hotel community," said **Jerry South**, Towne Park's Founder and CEO.

Amano Corp. has announced that the contact person in its Japan office is **Nakajima Izumi** at +814-543-91508.

Tony Kim of **Cisco Systems**, head of Connected Urban Development Seoul, has named Toronto-based **Skymeter Corp.** as its "technical solution partner for location, time and distance-based road-user charging." Kim made the announcement at the Clinton Global Initiative conference in September in New York. Skymeter officials called the partnership "a major development in the application of GPS technology to road-user charging" and a significant step for the firm.

Irwin J. Speyer, P.E., F.A.C.I., Founder and Owner of **Irwin Speyer-Consulting Engineers** in New York, has been selected to receive the 2008 Medal of Honor from the **Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI)**, the group's highest award. The honor is presented each year to recognize a member's "outstanding service to the institute or contributions to the industry over a long period of time."

Bird-X Inc., the global leader in humane bird and animal pest control solutions, has hired **Dave Kogan** as Marketing Manager. He coordinates and manages all marketing functions for Bird-X and its subsidiaries. **Joe Seid**, National Sales Manager, said the company "is going through a tremendous growth period and wanted to bring in a marketing professional who could help take Bird-X to the next level."

Chesterfield, England, is the first local authority in the UK to introduce the pay-by-space system from **Metric Parking**. The **North Derbyshire Authority** has installed 10 Metric pay-and-display parking machines that have gained popularity in the United States. The software, originally developed for the U.S. market, has been "adopted" by Chesterfield for two popular areas of the town centre.

Networkcar has added **Joshua Haims** as Vice President of Finance. In this role, he will drive all financial activities for the organization, shape its long-term strategy, and further develop day-to-day tactics. Haims brings leadership experience in diverse corporate settings ranging from start-ups such as Global Centric Networks and Slopecycle to established companies such as IBM, Bloomingdales and KPMG.

The **Precast/Prestressed Con-**

Continued on Page 14

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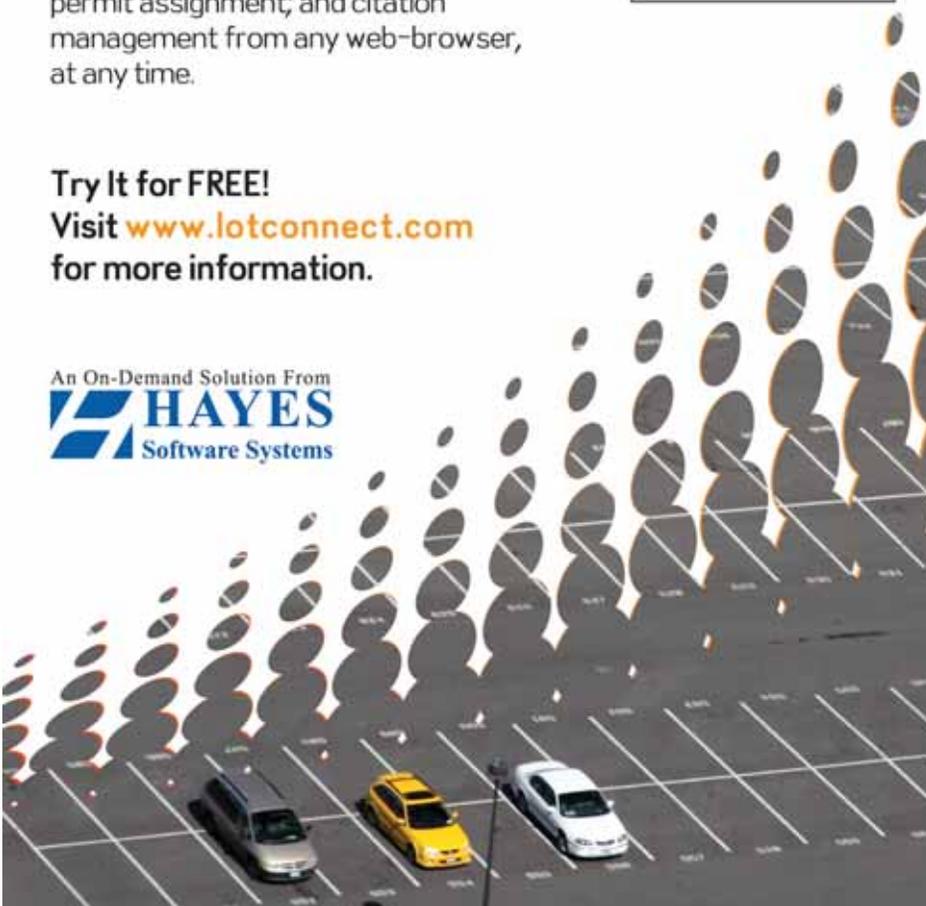
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PEOPLE IN PARKING

from Page 12

crete Institute (PCI) has appointed **William N. Nickas, P.E.**, as Managing Director of Transportation Services. He will support the precast concrete structures industry in developing and delivering current and future high-quality, durable and sustainable systems for building bridges, pavements and other transportation-related structures. This position had been held by **John Dick**, who retired earlier this year.

The **American Concrete Institute** (ACI) announces the availability of five new publications to educate and inform industry professionals on the newest concrete-related information and technology. As always, ACI members receive a special discount (up to 40%) on all publications. Publications can be ordered by calling (248) 848-3800 or online at www.concrete.org.

TagMaster has launched the S1470 CableTag. The latest addition to the company's heavy-duty family of RFID Tags is designed to suit a range of applications within metro, light-rail and mainline transportation systems. The launch was made at **InnoTrans**, the world's leading trade fair for rail transport technology, in September in Berlin, Germany.

The **Consulting Engineers Group** announced that **Precast Inc.** officially became part of its family on July 1. CEG officials said the addition of Precast's "talented resources will enhance our ability to provide superior design and drafting services to an even more diverse group of clients." Precast was established in 1984, with offices in Jackson, WY, Burleson, TX, and Albuquerque. Former Precast owners **Barb** and **Vic Burri** are now CEG-West Vice Presi-

dents and will continue to manage operations in the Jackson office.

Sentry Control Systems (SCS) has added **EZ-Assure** products to its product line. "SCS is a premier provider of parking and access control solutions, so we are pleased they now offer our products," said **Brent Van Loggerenberg**, VP Sales and Channel Development. Said SCS President **Tim Flanagan**: "We added EZ-Assure products to our product line because we have built our business and reputation since 1979 on identifying and effectively implementing the best solutions to our customers' problems, and EZ-Assure products are best-of-breed solutions."

Designa Italia has been awarded the contract to equip the Milanofiori 2000 business and service center, under construction in Milan, Italy, with the **PM Abacus** parking management system. Several car parks, with a total of 5,000 parking spaces for public and private use, are planned for the center, which is next to the Milan-Genoa motorway. The parking facilities, partly outdoors and partly under cover, will be automated, with more than 35 entrances and exits, and at least 10 self-service pay stations.

McMahon Associates was recently named as one of the Best Places to Work in Pennsylvania for 2008. McMahon was chosen for its unique company culture, employee benefits and employee satisfaction verified through confidential surveys. The awards program, created in 2000, is one of the first of its kind in the country to be offered by a state. The purpose of the statewide survey and awards program is to identify, recognize and honor the best places of employment in Pennsylvania, benefiting the state's economy, its workforce and businesses.

Continued on Page 16

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PEOPLE IN PARKING

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Secura Key has named **Jeff Hamilton** as Technical Communications Manager. He now is also responsible for managing Technical Support personnel, creating customer training programs, and supporting Sales and Marketing at trade shows.

Seasoned veteran **Tom Lundy** has joined **AMAG Technology** as its new Central North Regional Sales Manager. Tom will provide sales support to the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. Tom reports to Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Matt Barnette.

Nova Bus is proud to announce that **Gilles Gervais** joined the company as Vice President, Operations, in July 2008. The company has also named **Jim Tooley** to the position of Plant Manager for its facility in Plattsburgh, New York, effective September 2, 2008. The appointment was announced by Gervais who noted that "With over 20 years of manufacturing experience, Jim will be a valuable asset for Nova Bus, especially as we prepare to open our new plant in the United States." Nova Bus is currently constructing a new bus assembly facility in Plattsburgh. Construction of the plant is on schedule and vehicle deliveries will begin in the second half of 2009.

PT

Automated Valet Introduces Two Patent-Pending Technologies

Automated Valet has filed for patent protection for two of its newest products.

First, the patent-pending Garage Entry System applies video-imaging technology to process vehicles at valet entry and exit. It is capable of identifying cars and employees. The system prevents false claims by scanning cars for previous damages and identifies each vehicle's make, model, year and color. All information is then transferred to the customer's ticket.

The second one is AVPM FACEID, a technology that can be used to identify employees for garage access and time and attendance by mobile handheld unit. The system scans faces, and the imagery takes the place of an ID badge, reducing the time to process to get into a garage/lot to a few milliseconds. AVPM FACEID identifies each car and the employee at the wheel. The valet's face is scanned, and the information is attached to the vehicle's ticket to record who is parking and retrieving the car.

Both of these features reduce the amount of time it takes to park and deliver vehicles. They are equipped to handle hundreds of thousands of transactions every minute, if the operation has enough manpower.

Automated Valet's website, www.automatedvalet.com, provides more details on these two groundbreaking valet-parking patent applications and other features the company offers.

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