

# Lightstone unveils app to curb vehicle crimes

**Roy Cokayne**

LIGHTSTONE Auto, a provider of data and analytics on automotive assets, has launched a new and patented mobile application scanning solution that enables vehicle dealers, financiers and insurers to access data on a vehicle and its driver.

Royden Volans, Lightstone Auto's managing director, said yesterday that the technology could capture specific relevant information about not only the cars but also the people who drove them by merely scanning a vehicle's licence disc and a driver's licence card using the app with a smartphone.

Called Live (Lightstone Information and Verification Exchange), Volans said it would dramatically reduce the capture errors that currently plagued the industry, while the driver's licence scan reduced the potential for fraud and misrepresentation.

"It's extremely difficult for someone to tamper with the encrypted barcode contained on a driver's licence card. If there is any impersonation fraud, it usually involves supplanting the personal information on the licence card.

"But with this app, even if the information has been falsified on the front of the card, the risk of fraud against insurers, vehicle financiers and dealers is minimised as the barcode scan returns only the correct encoded information, including a photograph of the licence holder," he said.

Volans said the app would indicate if a vehicle was brand new, previously wrecked, rebuilt, stolen or involved in any other crime and provide its accident repair history.

This would allow banks and insurers to optimise their services and not finance or underwrite policies for vehicles they should not be financing or insuring.

Volans said Lightstone had received interest from security companies, who required the app for gate-access control, while the SAPS was quite optimistic about what the app could do for the police service, particularly at the country's borders.

He said it already had more than 400 users in vehicle dealerships, banks were using it to trace and recover vehicles over which they still held title but the owners had absconded and it was being used in a pilot study by two insurers for vehicle inspections for new policies.

Volans added that this technology was the first of many new developments in a suite of innovative solutions aimed at better servicing the automotive industry.

He said the app was available for download at no upfront cost on Android and Apple devices but users paid a fee for each transaction.

It is not available to consumers but Volans said Lightstone was working on three projects with partners to make a version of the app available to consumers.