

Buckinghamshire Company Listed in This Year's Queen's Awards for Enterprise

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"Photograph available from ray@medialink.co.uk"

Buckinghamshire-based Traka Ltd – one of the world leaders in key management systems – has received the Queen's Award for Innovation, crowning more than a decade of technical achievement and global marketing success.

The company, from Olney, beat hundreds of other pioneering products and businesses to earn the Innovation distinction – one of three honour categories in the annual Queen's Awards for Enterprise. Only a small number of organisations proposed for the Awards receive recognition, a fact acknowledged by Managing Director John Kent.

"The Award means that our products are recognised as being at the forefront of the world's key management systems and that the Company has been acknowledged by the highest office for its innovation. And rightly so – Traka is innovative and we're very proud of it.

"This honour means we have been noted as a supplier of a product that is truly outstanding, in what we have already achieved and in what we can achieve in the future. It's staggering, really – there is so much more we can, and will, do with this superb system."

The Traka system operates by securely attaching all work keys to a special "iFob" using a security seal which staff take and return to the Traka electronic cabinet. From there on Traka ensures that only authorised staff with the correct access privileges are allowed the use of each key and that every key taken is recorded automatically on to a central database showing the key user's name as well as the date and time.

With Traka in use there is no argument about who has damaged a vehicle, taken a vital file, received a parking fine or lost a key. Access to Traka-managed keys can be via PIN code, swipe card or Biometrics (hand-print recognition).

New features are continually being developed by Traka including "smart" key-less iFobs that not only unlock and operate machinery but can also record where they have been used, whether the equipment was satisfactory or even if a truck has been subject to excessive shocks or impacts. Traka systems can also ensure that faulty equipment is locked out of use or pre-booked, perhaps remotely, for an operator to use at a specific time and date.

Traka was first invented by John Kent in 1990 when British Airways asked him to develop a system to safeguard the use of ground support vehicles. Following a series of prototypes the Traka product as it looks today was introduced to BA in 1995 and the company has developed rapidly since then.

Traka now has distributors in 18 countries around the world and offers its unique brand of security to everything from casinos in Canada to radio stations in Italy. Police forces across the globe have adopted the Traka method and organisations as diverse as Disneyland Europe, Tesco, Sainsbury and the British Library all use Traka technology.

Note to Editors:

Some of the features that won Traka the Queen's Award for Innovation:

1. If a key is not in the cabinet when it should be, there's no need to ask around the office who has taken it – the Traka system will have logged the user automatically when he or she took the fob.
2. Traka holds all the information on special Windows computer software so that long-term records may be stored and maintained in case records have to be checked again at a later date.
3. Traka can help to plan the usage and value of company assets: how long a vehicle has been used for; how often certain files are accessed; and how many times a year a lift motor room has been accessed for maintenance.
4. As every iFob has a built-in electronic tag, it doesn't need a label, so anyone finding a lost one won't know what it opens or starts.
5. Access to the special Traka cabinet can be by PIN access code, swipe card access, or Biometrics (finger- or hand-print recognition).
6. The iFob, which can be used to operate fork lift trucks, can also collect and store information. It can record that a driver accepts the condition of a fork truck before using it each morning. Its shock sensor can even record if the truck has been in a collision. When an iFob is returned to the Traka cabinet, faults can be reported, ensuring that the equipment is locked out of use until the repair is made.
7. iFobs not only grant access to authorised personnel, but they can be programmed to work only at certain hours, or for specific lengths of time.
8. Keys can be booked in advance for later use, and a reminder is shown on the keybox display if anyone else takes a key when it should be in place for the "booking".

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