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**STRATTEC®: A LEGACY OF INNOVATION IN VEHICULAR SECURITY**

*New i-Guard System for Heavy Equipment is Latest Anti-Theft Solution*

STRATTEC® Security Corporation has delivered innovative anti-theft solutions to the automotive industry for more than 100 years. As the world's largest manufacturer of locks, keys and related access control products, STRATTEC applied radio-frequency identification (RFID) electronic immobilizer technology to develop a theft-deterrent system for the major automotive OEMs, which has helped reduce auto theft by an estimated 40 percent in the U.S. since 2001.

Now, STRATTEC has adapted its anti-theft system to serve the construction, fleet and rental equipment industries under the brand i-Guard, to keep machinery secure and protected from unauthorized use, anywhere. The following is a look at STRATTEC's major milestones in security technology over the years.

**1920s**

STRATTEC, known then as the automotive lock division of Briggs and Stratton, invents the first brass mechanical auto lock and has been a continuous supplier to North American OEMs since that time.

**1950s**

STRATTEC invents the unitized shutter door and truck lock, which is designed to keep out dirt, road salt and prevent corrosion.

**1960s**

STRATTEC invents the "side bar" pick-resistant mechanical car lock for General Motors.

## **1980s**

STRATTEC invents the Vehicle Anti-Theft System (VATS), securing both product and process patents. An electro mechanical key lock, VATS features an electronic resistance pellet, which is installed in the key and read by the vehicle's electronic module. STRATTEC developed this technology for General Motors, which implemented VATS on a majority of its automobile platforms through the 1990s, significantly reducing theft of GM vehicles by more than 35 percent. VATS is the precursor to RFID technology.

## **1990s**

STRATTEC begins research and development on RFID Transponder technology. Its first commercial application was with Utilimaster Body Company for a keyless security system for Federal Express delivery trucks. The first trucks were sold in 1998 and the same system is still in use today.

## **2000**

STRATTEC begins providing RFID transponder keys to GM, Ford and Chrysler. STRATTEC holds process patents on the plastic molding process that embeds the RFID transponder chip into the key.

## **2008**

STRATTEC develops a keyless RFID Transponder Start/ Stop system for Flaming River, a supplier of components for the hot rod industry.

## **2010**

STRATTEC develops integrated keys by incorporating the RFID transponder security and remote keyless entry into the key heads for GM, Ford and Chrysler.

## **2011**

STRATTEC develops bladeless keys, passive Fobs with push button Start / Stop features, which are gaining popularity among North American automotive OEMs.

## **2012**

STRATTEC works with Bobcat Doosan to create an RFID Transponder i-Guard application for mini excavators. STRATTEC also works with Mercury Marine to develop an i-Guard anti-theft system for outboard motors.

## **2012**

STRATTEC adapts its RFID electronic immobilizer anti-theft system to serve the construction, and equipment fleet industries under the name i-Guard.

## **About STRATTEC**

STRATTEC Security Corporation is the world's largest manufacturer of automotive locks, keys and related access control products, and is the primary lock supplier to Ford, GM and Chrysler. STRATTEC's history in the automotive business spans 100 years. For more information, write to 3333 West Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53209; call 414.247.3333; or visit [www.STRATTEC.com](http://www.STRATTEC.com). For more information on STRATTEC's i-Guard technology call 414-247-3333, or email [fkosloske@STRATTEC.com](mailto:fkosloske@STRATTEC.com).

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