

GeneWorks develops DNA barcodes as security tool

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Singapore: South Australian biotechnology company, GeneWorks, developed a new DNA barcoding technology for use as a security and authentication tool. Invisible marking using DNA is increasingly popular to identify and authenticate goods and deter intruders.

GeneWorks invented a method compatible with forensic analysis, unlike existing technologies, thus strengthening their legal standing in court. The technology employed involves a combination of DNA molecules of different defined lengths. These molecules are then mixed in a unique combination specific for a particular tagged item or premise.

Mr Rob King, business development manager, GeneWorks, "Compatibility with forensic instrumentation and DNA databases means that this technology can be used as evidence for criminal convictions in court. Applications of the technology are endless and are especially useful in industries such as apparel and pharmaceuticals where companies suffer loss of revenue and reputation damage due to counterfeiting."

DNA barcoding can be used to invisibly mark such items as banknotes, wine, pharmaceuticals, and art work. It can also be formulated as a fixative spray which allows it to be used to uniquely tag intruders upon entering a security protected premise and thus link them to the crime scene.

The worldwide counterfeiting technology and security market is worth over \$82 billion, and includes a range of technologies used for anti-counterfeiting and authentication of high value products.