

PRESS RELEASE

Anonymous Tips via Text Message for Law Enforcement

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ANDERSON SOFTWARE ANNOUNCES NEW CRIME FIGHTING TOOL

Anderson Software, LLC, the industry leader in law enforcement tip management software and web applications, today unveiled their new Tip via Text Message product, TipSoft SMS. Using this new product... over 1200 Crime Stoppers programs worldwide and law enforcement agencies everywhere may now anonymously receive tips from cell phones. This technology also allows investigators to securely reply back to the cell phone without compromising the tipster's identity.

Crime Stoppers, the well known community action group that assists law enforcement agencies in gathering intelligence internationally, is the first to employ this emerging technology for the safety of the community at large. Recent deployments of similar technology in Boston and South Africa have proven the concept can be effective. This capability has been enhanced by Anderson and is now available to all Crime Stoppers and law enforcement agencies globally. The system assigns an encrypted alias... fully protecting the identities of those providing the valuable information and providing secure and anonymous ongoing communications.

Text messaging or Short Message Service (SMS) provides several advantages over traditional voice calls, especially when calling may not be feasible or safe. In the U.S. alone, 300,000 text messages per minute are sent daily. As the use of SMS continues to grow, the value and variety of SMS applications also expand. Technologically, SMS utilizes a much smaller bandwidth, can be transmitted faster than voice calls, and can be sent even when voice traffic is jammed or signal strength is too weak for voice calls. They also require much less battery power, and thus are a better choice for communicating when the battery is low or the phone is being used in a remote location. All of these advantages will serve tipsters in their quest to assist law enforcement without endangering themselves.

Kevin Anderson, CEO of Anderson Software and a longtime supporter and IT Partner of Crime Stoppers from the local to international levels, is committed to utilizing all available methods for obtaining information from the public. He says, "The inclusion of SMS tips is a natural in this day and time." He further observes, "Due to the enormous popularity of texting messages via cell phone, and being the industry leader in gathering tips, we felt it was time to develop and provide a truly secure and anonymous means of easily communicating with tipsters via text messages.

"We know this avenue will be utilized by all ages, but it is a real natural for the younger generation who are so familiar with this form of communication. SMS tips will greatly enhance any Crime Stoppers program and certainly augments existing law enforcement intelligence gathering efforts. We believe it is also the perfect complement to our turnkey tip acquisition and management solution recently developed specifically for school systems. Along with our hotline and secure and anonymous WebTips with Two-Way Dialogue capabilities... SMS tips will be offered through our Student Crime Prevention Resource Center as well."

This innovation is being greeted with enthusiasm in the Crime Stoppers Community globally. Elaine Cloyd, President of Crime Stoppers USA, comments "The development of state of the art technology is extremely important to Crime Stoppers because taking tips 24/7 that are truly anonymous is the life blood of the program. We have worked with Anderson Software for many years and many Crime Stopper programs are using the TipSoft tip reporting system. We were already excited about the development of their WebTip application, which has doubled the tips coming in to many programs, and look forward with anticipation to the TipSoft SMS product. This product will be particularly useful for student programs."

Ralph Page, the Chair of the Canadian Crime Stoppers Association comments "We in Canada are delighted to now have the capability to receive tips via SMS text message. We commend Anderson Software for responding in such short order to our requirement for anonymous tipping. We do know that the younger generation, in particular are very keen to use text messaging. It is our hope that we can further increase the number of tips coming into Crime Stopper Programs using this new, safe and secure technology. Tipsters can now anonymously submit tips by telephone, via Anderson's secure WebTip application and now Text Messaging."

Peter Price, Chair, Crime Stoppers Australia comments "Anonymous and Secure SMS crime reporting will become more important to Crime Stoppers and Police in the future, as the penetration of mobile communications grows at a pace outstripping landline communications."

CrimeStoppers UK Coordinator and Vice-President of Crime Stoppers International, Detective Sgt Michael Gordon-Gibson comments “I see the anonymous SMS tip capabilities now available to Crime Stoppers as being crucial to the progression of this global organization not the least in trying to encourage teenagers to use Crimes Stoppers to give anonymous information in safety as this is a medium they prefer and are using on a daily basis. In many cases they are the ones with good information on crime and anti-social behavior. A secure SMS capability also offers all sections of all communities around the world another secure line of communication to get valuable criminal intelligence into the law enforcement agencies. In the UK we are currently working with CSI IT partner Anderson Software to integrate Tipsoft SMS into our UK Crimestoppers operation.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.smscrimetips.com

www.andersoft.com

www.c-s-i.org

Anderson Software, LLC

Anderson Software, located in Nacogdoches, Texas, develops world class, unique software and secure web applications designed specifically for the Law Enforcement, Homeland Security and Emergency Management industries. Their commercial products are deployed globally and are considered vital assets within the respective agencies utilizing them. Company founder, Kevin Anderson, has served on the Crime Stopper boards in his hometown of Nacogdoches, TX, the Texas Crime Stoppers Association, Crime Stoppers USA, and is currently the database administrator and IT Chair for Crime Stoppers International.

Crime Stoppers International

Since being founded in 1976 by Albuquerque Detective Greg MacAleese, Crime Stoppers programs around the world have operated as non-profit organizations designed to combat crime and keep streets safe. They are a partnership of the local community, the media and law enforcement. Volunteer boards in over 1200 Crime Stoppers programs raise funds to support operations and to often pay rewards to those individuals whose anonymous tips lead to arrest and indictment of those charged with felonies. To date, Crime Stoppers have a 95% conviction rate. They have been responsible for over 690,000 arrests, \$1.7 billion of property recovered, and \$6.5 billion in drugs seized.