

Technology: StarChase uses a laser to lock on to the pursued vehicle before firing the tracking tag.

## Tracking device may be end of car chases

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WA Police vehicles could soon be fitted with technology which fires an adhesive tracking device at a fleeing vehicle.

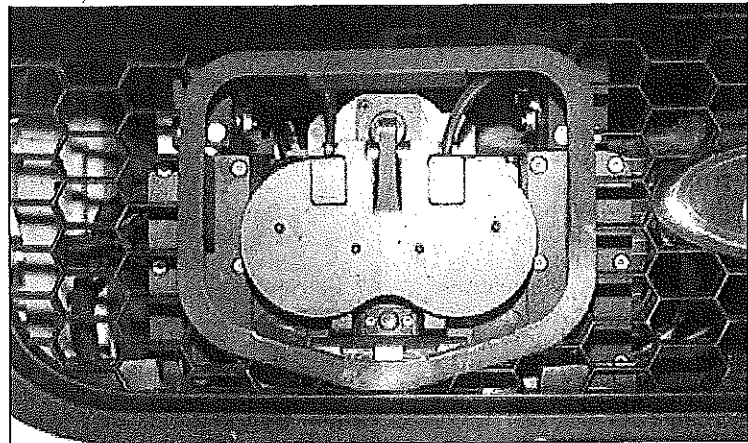
The move comes in the wake of recent controversy over the danger of high-speed car chases.

Police executive director Greg Italiano said they were set to test the bumper-mounted StarChase pursuit management system with a view to installing the devices in police vehicles.

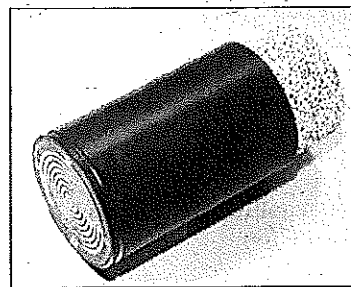
The system, which is used by police across the US, uses a compressed-air launcher which targets a fleeing vehicle with a laser and then fires a GPS module at it.

That module allows police to track the vehicle's location in real time via a secure internet site.

Mr Italiano said the devices, which are believed to cost more than \$10,000 each, could allow



Launcher: The StarChase system shoots a tracking device at a fleeing vehicle.



Fired: The GPS tracking tag.

police to abandon dangerous pursuits while still tracking the fleeing vehicle.

He said the system would allow police to "apprehend unlawful drivers more safely, reducing

risk to both the community and police officers".

WA Police Union president Russell Armstrong said the union had analysed the StarChase system and believed it could be of great value to officers.

"To be able to track cars which speed away from police without having to get involved in a potentially dangerous chase would obviously be a very good thing," he said.

Acting Police Minister John Day said he would wait until the trial was completed before deciding whether he supported the rollout of the system in police vehicles.