

## Ultra-Indelible Cash Dye

Applied DNA Sciences (ADNAS) has announced an exclusive agreement with Printcolor Screen to produce a new ultra-indelible tagged ink for the cash degradation market. According to the company, *AzSure*<sup>®</sup> is the result of extensive tests over the past two years, and its staining power and resistance to removal are second to none.

Tagged inks are used by the cash in transit (CIT) industry as part of systems installed in the containers used to transport and dispense cash that stain the notes in the event of unauthorised access. The use of the taggants within the inks provides each container with its own unique identity, enabling law enforcers to trace the origins of stolen cash and forensically authenticate it, so that recovered cash can be attributed to specific robberies, individual criminals, and ultimately, the original owners.

According to ADNAS, however, a weakness of such systems is the growing ability of

criminals to remove the ink. Hence the development of *AzSure*, which has been subject to numerous trials involving a variety of industrial solvents. The tests have been independently analysed by the University of Leeds' Colour Science Department, which has stated that the dye becomes strongly bonded to a variety of banknotes in less than five seconds, staining these rapidly and remaining after various solvent immersion tests to a level not seen by other commercially-available staining fluids.

US-based ADNAS entered the cash degradation market in 2008, with a contract with Loomis in the UK. Its taggant technology — *SigNature*<sup>®</sup> DNA — is based on botanical DNA. Printcolor Screen is based in Switzerland and specialises in inks for niche markets, including the *spectraCRYPT*<sup>®</sup> range which offers more than 20 different forensic attributes.