

## **INDUSTRY UPDATES**

**By Ken Vitty**

**Many changes are coming for the Ford product line of vehicles for 2005. That includes the PATS III Encrypted transponder anti-theft system being installed on the following 2005 vehicles:**

**Ford Mustang**

**F250 and F350 pickups**

**The new Ford 500 (that include the Freestyle and the Mercury Monterey).**

**Ironically, the Ford excursion will still use the PATS I and II transponder system.**

**Watch for the new Saturn Relay, which is a new mini-van.**

**As of this point in time, the Oldsmobile Bravada is the only vehicle they will produce in 2005.**

**Buick will have two new models, the Lacrosse four-door sedan and the Terrazza mini-van both of which will have the PK 3 transponder system.**

**Most of the foreign vehicle manufactures are also working on their own version of the “smart key”, “virtual key” or “proximity key technology”. As of this writing, only the dealers can sell, issue and program keys into their models equipped with this system. GM may be the first domestic auto manufacture to introduce this type of key on their Cadillac XLR. The engine use will be a North Star engine.**

**The 2005 Chevrolet Corvette C6 is also using a proximity intelligent key system. This vehicle has two locks, one on the glove box and one on the rear bumper. The glove box also has a switch that can be set for valet function. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> body change for Corvette, thus leading to the new name. The 2-door coupe is available now; the convertible is coming next year (2006). This vehicle has no trunk, only a rear hatch area. The glove box also will have a slot built in it to start the car, by placing the proximity key in it, and if the driver elects to use this function, instead of using the proximity function.**

**Lexus and Toyota will also have an intelligent key system, however, the transmitter must be inserted in a slot in the dashboard.**

**GM “ON STAR” FACTS:**

**On star monthly averages are as follows:**

**600 Stolen vehicle assistance calls;  
28,000 remote door unlockings;  
15,000 remote vehicle diagnostics;  
270,00 routing calls.**

**The “Vehicle owners right to repair act”.**

**If this bill becomes law, then the dealers will have to share transponder and other privy information, diagnostic tools and dealer ordered keys with the locksmiths and mechanical service techs. Certain restrictions will apply. This bill will help alleviate dealer only service on locks, keys and transponder anti-theft systems with many of the high-end manufactured vehicle’s**