

**Title of Article :** *Design of a GPS/GSM based Tracker for the location of stolen items and kidnapped or missing persons in Nigeria.*

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**Abstract:** The high rate of kidnapping in Nigeria is fueled inability of security agencies to quickly identify the location of the kidnapped persons. This system combines the position location capabilities of the GPS (Global Positioning System) to identify the current location of the kidnapped person or stolen items. These coordinates are time stamped, accessed by the microcontroller and sent to predetermined mobile phones via the GSM network. The GPS readings are accessed at short regular intervals but only the latest five readings are stored per time and these five readings are transmitted on demand by the GSM modem under the control of the Microcontroller upon the receipt of a location request SMS. The system monitors the GSM signal strength as the tracked object or person moves and when the GSM received signal strength falls below a predetermined threshold value, an alert together with the last five location data is sent to the monitoring mobile phones and the control center notifying them that the tracked object is approaching an area without GSM coverage. The system is designed to be permanently on and it is run on batteries that can last for very long periods before requiring a recharge. The unit is designed to be attached to the clothing or strapped on the tracked person in such a way that it can not be easily identified or removed. It also has a panic button which can be activated during an emergency to send the location data to the predetermined numbers