

Don't call, we'll track you down

Matt Sun

New mobile phones that track your exact location and tell you how to get to the nearest Italian restaurant, how far away your delivery is or where the kids are will be released this year.

But the one thing they can't do is track a stolen phone.

Assisted Global Positioning

System tracking is set to become a standard feature in mobile phones, with the first handset due for release in Australia in August.

It will be a standard feature for new phones in 12 months.

The handset will feature a small GPS antenna capable of showing its location on a CBD map to within 5m.

Existing mobile phone track-

ing, using base stations, can only pinpoint handsets to within a 200-600m radius.

The AGPS handsets will be no larger than standard mobiles with the antenna concealed on the back of the phone.

Mobile tracking company LocateMy Phone spokesman Wade Short said the new technology was exciting, but there were privacy concerns. Most GPS ser-

vices will be handled by third-party companies.

The new GPS service will not help track a phone whose battery is flat or stolen phones, because thieves can simply switch off the GPS option and remove the phone's SIM card.

■ **Would you want your phone to track you? Email bristalk@mxnet.com or SMS 1977 7782.**