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A device that allows the location and condition of a parcel to be monitored in real time will get its official launch at the end of this month.

ParcelLive is designed for tracking high-value, fragile, and time- or temperature-sensitive packages. It is a postcard sized device that is inserted into the parcel when it is shipped. As well as tracking, it monitors temperature and humidity. It has an accelerometer to tell if it has been dropped and a light detector to tell if the parcel has been opened.

It has been developed by Hanhaa, a company launched in 2014 to develop products for the Internet of Things. This project is being funded by BillerudKorsnäs, the packaging materials giant.

The first wave of the rollout will involve 500 ParcelLive devices tracking real parcels on their journeys across the world. The company is on track to produce 20,000 units for general availability by mid-2017.

Among the first users will be Sigma Retail Solutions and Arvato Bertelsmann.

“We have a lot of customers in the high tech industry, healthcare industry and the automotive industry who have the need to track the location and condition of their parcels anywhere in the world,” said Marc Kleimeyer of Arvato Bertelsmann. “The ability to get this much information on our shipments at this big a scale is very exciting.”

Hanhaa founder Azhar Hussain said: “We are delighted to see ParcelLive entering the retail distribution networks of some of the world’s leading brands and logistics service providers. We are very confident that these relationships will grow exponentially when they see how ParcelLive transforms their business.”

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