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(S.D.)-State Scientists Create Nanotech Invisible Ink

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SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - Researchers at the University of South Dakota and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology have developed a technology to print invisible quick-response codes that could be used to combat counterfeiting.

The quick-response codes can hold up to 100 times more information than a traditional bar code. They have grown in popularity in part because they can be scanned with smartphones.

The inks used to print the codes contain nanoparticles that are invisible outside the presence of infrared lasers. The codes could be used to verify documents or monitor remote equipment.

USD chemistry professor Stanley May says molecules in the ink can be modified to be applied to different surfaces, such as plastic, wood and metal.