

## Technology Forecast

### ***Night-Vision Cameras***

Soon, drivers will not have to be afraid of the dark. Night-vision systems will let them see farther and better. Making nighttime driving safe is important. About half of all fatal car accidents happen at night.

Night-vision systems use a camera that can “see” heat given off by people, animals, and objects. This heat is a kind of light called infrared light. Infrared light cannot be seen by the human eye. A small image displayed on the windshield shows the driver what the night-vision camera detects.

With a night-vision system, the driver can see up to one-quarter of a mile away. That distance is three to five times farther than with low-beam headlights. It is up to three times farther than with high-beam headlights.

At normal cruising speeds, the driver will have more time to stop the vehicle or steer away from objects. Accidents and injuries can be avoided.

Night-vision cameras weren’t built first for cars. The U.S. military made them so that soldiers can see in the dark. They can see the terrain and identify objects and personnel. One day soon, night-vision systems may enable drivers to see better at night on America’s highways.

### **Action Activity**

The night-vision system is one type of imaging system for vehicles. Find out about other systems. For example, one imaging system may be used to control the deployment of airbags. Select one imaging system and prepare a PowerPoint presentation or a set of drawings to describe how the system works.