Smiths Detection to develop narcotics detection algorithm
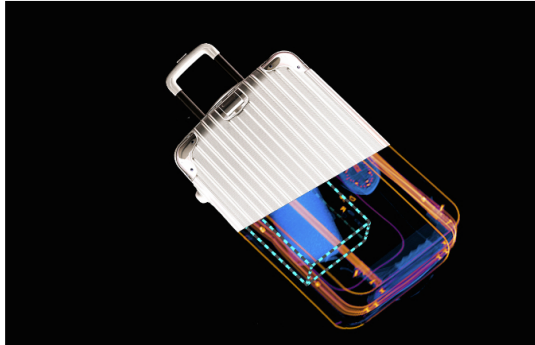
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Smiths Detection, a global leader in threat detection and screening technology, today announces that it has been selected for EU funding as part of a consortium to develop an intelligent customs border control screening system (BAG-INTEL) that will automatically detect narcotics in passenger baggage.

The consortium is funded by Horizon Europe, the key funding programme for research and innovation of the EU. Smiths Detection's role will be to create an effective narcotics detection algorithm.

The BAG-INTEL consortium brings together technology providers and customs agencies to solve customs and border control challenges by targeting specific bags needing manual inspection.

All bags will be automatically screened for narcotics between unloading from the aircraft and baggage reclaim area. The results of the screening will be combined with data to identify which luggage should be investigated further.

Smiths Detection's algorithm will be developed by leveraging a combination of material discrimination, similar to that used in explosives detection, as well as shape-based, deep learning, which is used for weapons detection. Smiths Detection is an industry leader in the development and application of smart, automatic detection algorithms.

Advances in AI-based algorithms have enabled real-time, automatic identification of a fast-growing list of prohibited items.

By framing any suspect items, image analysts can make faster, more accurate decisions which increases detection levels while maintaining the necessary flow of passengers and goods.

Initially, the algorithm will be designed for the hold baggage and air cargo screening system HI-SCAN 10080 XCT.

Glenn Tracey, Smiths Detection Science and Technology Director, commented, "Smiths Detection is committed to advancing the uptake of digital solutions for everyday detection needs and being part of this consortium is another example of this.

"The development of the narcotics detection algorithm aligns perfectly with work that we are already doing in this area and will be an excellent addition to the iCMORE family.

"Most importantly, working closely with our partners is a positive step in supporting the ongoing fight against narcotics and making the world a safer place."

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