



Border Force

The challenge of .. Pushing innovation when you are a small market.

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So what? Who cares?

Space: Border Force is tasked with interdicting illicit goods amongst the flow of legitimate passengers and trade that crosses the border.

Problem?

- Increasing levels of goods/passengers drives a need for more bespoke solutions to improve efficiency and capability.
- UK is a small market that will only buy small numbers of technology.
- Technology manufacturers generally unable to support as investment would not be recouped.
- Innovation does not happen.

Solution:

- Increase potential market size by collaborating with customs who face similar issues.
- Agree common requirements to improve likelihood of investment
- Explore and utilize research and innovation opportunities
- Share everything with wider customs community to stimulate their interest and buy-in

Results: This is underway in UK and some other EU countries. Early days.

Specific challenges

- Technology with capability for better commodity discrimination.
- Technology with capability to address contraband hidden in dense cargo.
- Technology that can effectively screen at “flow of commerce” rates. (people or goods)

Internal Engagement

- Innovative Research Call (IRC) – weapons, explosives and **narcotics**.
- Future Aviation Security Solutions (FASS) – added capability for detection of customs commodities to their recent calls (**illicit drugs, fiscal goods, currency**).
- Govtech – Short term innovation focussed on postal domain. 5 projects underway for phase 1.



External Engagement

EU Customs Detection Technology Project Group

- 16 European Customs administrations

EU Horizon 2020 Work Programme

- 2015 - C-BORD - technologies for container scanning. (4)
- 2016- MESMERISE- technologies to detect internally and externally concealed drugs.
- 2018 – PEN-CP - Network of customs practitioners (13)
- 2019 – BorderSENS (3)
- 2019 – Compass 2020 – Maritime surveillance technologies (1)

WCO Technical Experts Group

NII technologies

- Unified File Format 2.0
- Partnership with Industry
- Appetite for algorithms and AI



- Questions/comments/feedback

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Detection Services Portfolio
Border Force

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