

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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University's ground-breaking explosive detection technology to feature at international airports

Explosive testing technology invented by the University of Tasmania and developed by Grey Innovation could be rolled out at airports around the world to help keep passengers safe.

The technology, called GreyScan, has been evaluated by European and US authorities and trialled in an international airport. Industry leaders are in Hobart today to meet the science team and discuss the deployment in detail.

The GreyScan technology was initially developed by the Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science (ACROSS) based at the University of Tasmania.

The detection system was invented by Professor Michael Breadmore and his team from the University's Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology with funding from agencies including the National Security Science and Technology Centre and the US Department of Homeland Security.

"Cracking the problem around separating and identifying inorganic molecules was the breakthrough we needed to create the technologies," Professor Breadmore said.

"Now we can detect trace levels of inorganic explosives, on people, shoes and other items very rapidly."

In 2014, the University of Tasmania licensed the technology to the Australian technology commercialisation firm Grey Innovation, who are bringing the technology to market.

Grey have secured significant investment, developed the technology, and have run testing and evaluation programs with multiple governments around the world. GreyScan has now attracted the interest of the global major players in the screening and security space.

The technology is the first instrumentation in the world to detect homemade inorganic explosives, overcoming the limitation of existing screening techniques that struggle to detect modern explosives.

Jefferson Harcourt, Director of Grey Innovation said it was an example of research translation at its best.

“We have world-leading research at the University of Tasmania, and by partnering with a company specialising in commercialising technology, things can move quickly,” Mr Harcourt said.

“Nimble innovators like Grey are able to rapidly get the technology to a point where we can attract investors and global channel partners, some of whom are here today.”

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