FACT SHEET

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Features of the TSA Innovation Checkpoint at Las Vegas McCarran International Airport
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Las Vegas McCarran International Airport (LAS) is the site of the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) first and only Innovation Checkpoint. TSA's Innovation Task Force is utilizing this site for side-by-side testing and evaluation of emerging security technologies from a variety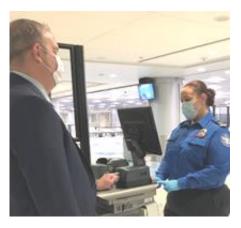 of vendors in a live checkpoint environment. Here is a summary of technologies currently being tested in the Innovation Checkpoint.

Digital signage

In lieu of traditional printed signs, digital signage allows for the dynamic display of helpful information to ensure travelers are prepared for the security screening process. Messaging can be updated in real-time via a tablet on-site. In the next phase, digital signage displays will be integrated with automated traveler movement analytics to show current wait-times as well as other operational features including the availability of TSA PreCheck® screening or canines working in the queue.

Credential Authentication Technology

At the Travel Document Checking podium, travelers will be asked to insert their photo ID into a Credential Authentication Technology (CAT) unit instead of handing it to a TSA officer. The CAT unit scans and analyzes the ID and in real-time, verifying the identity of the traveler while providing enhanced fraudulent ID detection capabilities.

Because CAT is linked electronically to the Secure Flight database, it is able to confirm the traveler's flight details, ensuring they are ticketed for travel that day. CAT also displays the pre-screening status (such as TSA PreCheck) the traveler is eligible for, all without presenting a boarding pass to the TSA officer.

CAT improves a TSA officer's ability to accurately authenticate passenger identification and pre-screening status while addressing the vulnerabilities associated with ID and boarding pass fraud.

Automated Screening Lanes (ASLs) integrated with Computed Tomography (CT) X-ray scanners

TSA is testing Automated Screening Lanes (ASLs) integrated with Computed Tomography (CT) scanners allowing for uninterrupted movement of carry-on luggage through the screening process. This is the only security checkpoint in the country that combines these technologies in every lane.

ASLs automate many of the functions that were previously performed manually including repopulating bins from the back to the front of the security checkpoint. This automation allows for travelers to move faster and more efficiently through the security checkpoints aided by the additional detection capabilities of the CT scanner.

Linking ASLs and CT scanners bring new capabilities to the carry-on property screening process. The units can be configured to allow TSA officers to simultaneously review multiple 3-D, X-ray images produced by the CT unit through an RFID tracking system. One of the combined systems features a sensor that is designed to prevent the backup of bins entering the ASL. For special screening circumstances, TSA officers can opt to use an ASL bin with a unique RFID code. The CT unit recognizes the unique code and automatically queues the TSA officer that the bin requires special follow-up.

When a CT unit is in use, travelers are able to leave electronics and travel-size liquids in their carry-on luggage. In addition, ASLs allow for travelers to place their items in bins simultaneously, reducing the need to wait in line for the person in front of you to complete that task.

UV-C light sanitization system

TSA is testing the use of a UV-C light sanitization system integrated with an ASL. The system is designed to sanitize the interior and exterior of bins as they are repopulated through the ASL's automated bin return system.

Bins pass through a metal box underneath the rollers where they are exposed to a high-dose of UV-C light, which has been proven to inactivate bacteria and viruses including the COVID-19 virus. This process sanitizes bins between individual uses and is a chemical-free way to eliminate harmful pathogens.

Close up view.

Wide view of UV-C light sanitization system integrated with ASL.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate and TSA conducted numerous studies to determine that the systems are safe for operational use in the security checkpoint environment.

eAIT body scanner

The eAIT body scanner is a flat panel body scanner that uses millimeter wave technology to screen travelers for security threats. The unit has an updated, non-gender specific algorithm and it allows travelers to keep their hands at their side instead of holding them over their head. The unit also provides corrective feedback to the TSA officer prior to scanning. This reduces incorrect positioning of the person, ultimately reducing the number of pat-downs that need to be conducted. It also allows TSA officers to conduct follow-up screenings of multiple travelers simultaneously if required.

Similar to other body scanners currently in use at airports nationwide, the new eAIT generates a generic image of the traveler, ensuring their privacy.

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