CASE STUDY

THRU**V**ISION

PEOPLE-SCREENING

SEA
Seattle-Tacoma
International
Airport

How Seattle-Tacoma International Airport uses new people screening technology for "Safe Distance – No Pat Down" airport employee screening

The Challenge: Improving Airport Employee Security in the COVID-19 Era

The largest airport serving the Pacific Northwest, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), is also one of the fastest growing in the country, serving over 50 million passengers in 2019 and acting as a gateway for international travel.

It is also a major employer. In 2018, the airport had 24,000 direct badged employees, and provided a total of approximately 87,000 direct jobs through the different employers operating onsite.

Because many employees have access to secure areas of the airport, its security team conducts screening of airport employees to ensure staff do not bring prohibited items into the secure areas of the airport, and to deter theft and smuggling. However, the need for security must be balanced against the need for employees to do their job efficiently, while also addressing staff health and safety requirements, especially in the era of COVID-19.

The Need for Effective, High Throughput, "Safe Distance" Screening

Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, one of the most common methods of screening airport employees was the use of hand-held metal detectors or "wands". This technique always had disadvantages for employees and airport staff – it was slow, intrusive, and ineffective in detecting non-metallic items.

But with employee health and safety a top SEA priority, such "close proximity" searches created serious problems. There is no practical way to use hand-held metal detectors while maintaining CDC recommended

social distancing guidelines. As a result, SEA needed a contactless technology that reduced the risk of COVID-19 transmission, without sacrificing security or operational effectiveness.

Solution: Thruvision's Safe distance, "No Pat Down" Airport Employee Screening Technology

SEA considered multiple solutions to address its needs before selecting Thruvision's safe distance, stand-off people screening technology.

"Our goal is to improve security in the most efficient manner based on COVID-19 restrictions," said Terrence McHugh, SEA Airport Manager Aviation Security. "This technology meets our requirements to quickly detect any concealed items while maintaining physical distancing of up to six feet."

SAFE ▼ FAST ▼ PROVEN

Safe Distance Security

Thruvision removes the need for the close proximity physical search resulting from using walk-through metal detectors or AIT body scanners, and allows security officers and employees to maintain a safe distance from one another.

An essential new technology enabling the safe reopening of passenger aviation in the US, Thruvision uses its patented passive terahertz technology to measure the thermal energy emitted by an employee's body from a safe distance of 10 feet. An item concealed in clothing blocks that body energy reaching the sensor, meaning a security guard can see it and ask the employee to remove it themself. Metallic and non-metallic items are reliably detected and it is impossible to tell an employee's age, gender or ethnicity from the Thruvision image, often termed the "green ghost".
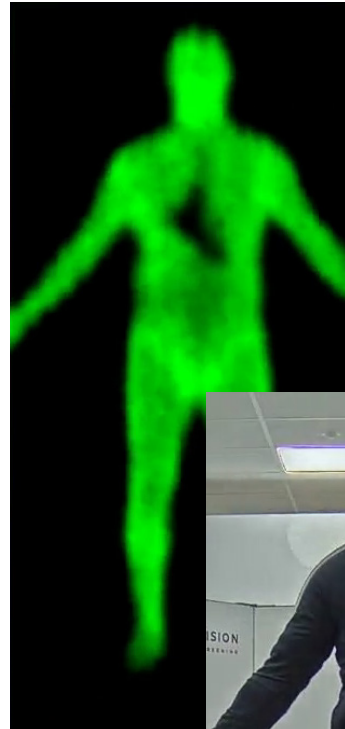
The Result: A Safe Distance Airport Employee Screening Solution

After extensive operational testing, SEA has deployed Thruvision's technology for regular airport employee screening. To date, the results have been excellent.

Thruvision's "Green Ghost" image shows concealed gun while maintaining individual privacy

Thruvision's AI-based Dynamic Detection algorithm shows gun as alarm overlay

About Thruvision

Addressing the urgent need for "safe distance" people security screening in the COVID era, Thruvision is uniquely capable of detecting metallic and non-metallic items including weapons, explosives and contraband items that are hidden under clothing, at distances from 8 to 20 ft depending on Conops. Using patented passive terahertz technology, Thruvision completely removes the need for physical "pat-downs" and has been vetted and approved by the US Transportation Security Administration for surface transportation. Operationally deployed in 20 countries around the world, Thruvision is used for aviation security, retail supply chain loss prevention, customs and border control, and public area security. Thruvision is headquartered near Oxford, UK, and in Washington, DC.

For more information, please visit www.thruvision.com.

Learn More – Contact Thruvision Today

To learn how Thruvision's breakthrough passive terahertz technology can safely and effectively ensure your operational security, visit **www. thruvision.com/airport-security** today or contact:

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