



HAMAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT STEPS UP SECURITY READINESS WITH CUTTING-EDGE SCREENING TECHNOLOGY

The adoption of ECAC EDS CB C2 approved advanced algorithms elevates checkpoint security and efficiency to support safe distancing measures

CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT TO TRAVEL SAFETY

Hamad International Airport (HIA) is the State of Qatar’s sole international airport and recognized as one of the world’s best¹. The airport recorded its highest passenger traffic to date in 2019², hampered only by COVID-19. In response to the pandemic and in demonstration to their commitment to ensuring passenger safety and smooth operations, at the early stages of the pandemic, HIA introduced advanced technologies like robotics and thermal screening helmets to reduce the risk of virus transmission.

To further protect their passengers, HIA has also sought to improve its security screening process. To make the travel journey safer and smoother, the airport aimed to increase throughput at security checkpoints and reduce the need for excessive baggage handling. This required a more accurate and efficient baggage screening technology that could limit divestment and reduce the need for secondary rechecks and manual inspection.

UPGRADING TO THE LATEST, ADVANCED ALGORITHMS

In 2019, HIA ran a trial of the new ECAC EDS CB C2 approved technology. The success of the trial gave HIA the confidence to implement the upgrades

across all transfer screening checkpoints. Working with Smiths Detection, the process took only four days, with minimal impact on ongoing operations at the airport.

KEY BENEFITS: HAMAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT’S AUTOMATIC EXPLOSIVES DETECTION SYSTEMS



Increased passenger
throughput



Reduced divestment
time



Allows passengers to
leave electronics in bags



Fewer touch
points

In total, 52 previously installed HI-SCAN 7555aTiX X-ray explosives detectors at transfer security screening were upgraded to C2 detection standard. Through the upgrades, the scanners were equipped with an advanced algorithm that could easily detect explosive materials held in complex structures and congested bags.

¹ World Airport Awards, [World’s Top 10 Airports 2020](#)

² Hamad International Airport, [Qatar’s Gateway achieved 12.44% increase in passenger numbers in 2019 compared to previous year](#)

Another advantage brought about by the upgrade is that passengers can now keep electronic devices - such as laptops, digital cameras and tablets - in their hand luggage. Security officers have less need to handle passenger items and trays during divestment, reducing the need for contact with trays or belongings for both airport employees and passengers.



The HI-SCAN 7555aTiX provides two detailed high-resolution views, and an automatic detection of solid and liquid explosives during the screening of carry-on baggage.

ENHANCED RESPONSE TO COVID-19 THREAT

The introduction of C2 technology at HIA airport has led to a faster, smoother and tighter security screening process. The powerful advanced algorithm accurately and efficiently detects threat materials in carry-on bags, reducing the need for secondary rechecks and physical inspections. With passengers now being able to leave electronics in their luggage, up to seven seconds could be saved on divestment time per person in average, also shortening repacking, adding to a faster flow of operations at the security checkpoints.



Passengers can now leave electronics in their luggage boosting passenger convenience and experience.

These benefits of C2 technology also translate to elevated hygiene standards and a strengthened response to the COVID-19 threat. The increased accuracy and performance of threat detection means that security officers at HIA will have less need to handle passenger items and divestment trays, thus limiting touch points and human contact, ultimately curbing the potential of cross-contamination.

Social distancing guidelines also aim to limit physical distances between individuals and the amount of time spent in close proximity to others. Smoother flow and reduced crowding allow greater adherence to these guidelines so passengers can move quickly and safely through the checkpoints.

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During this challenging pandemic, our priority remains to protect passengers while safeguarding security. With Smiths Detection’s cutting-edge technology and expertise, we’ve been able to adopt C2 technology to accomplish a more efficient protocol that addresses all passenger concerns and to achieve 100 per cent passenger satisfaction. As aviation travel recovers, we can reopen our airport with even greater confidence.

— Saeed Yousef Al-Sulaiti, VP,
Security at Hamad International Airport

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For more information on our checkpoint solutions, scan the QR code here or visit: <https://bit.ly/39HZZfb>