U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Office of Field Operations

Non Intrusive Inspection (NII) Division
In 1995, the U.S. Customs Service developed a five-year *Technology Acquisition Plan for the Southern Tier of the United States*. The plan was developed to address the increasingly sophisticated techniques used by drug-smuggling organizations to conceal narcotics deeply within an ever-growing volume of commercial cargo and conveyances. In September 1996, Customs deployed its first large-scale Non-Intrusive Inspection system - a truck x-ray system - at the Otay Mesa, California port of entry.

Less than two years after the terrorist events of September 11, 2001, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) was formed on March 1, 2003, under the Department of Homeland Security, merging the functions of four agencies with border responsibilities (U.S. Customs, U.S. Border Patrol, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the Department of Agriculture) into one agency responsible for all border functions.
The priority mission of CBP is to detect and prevent terrorists and terrorist weapons from entering the United States at and between ports of entry while simultaneously facilitating legitimate trade and travel.

NII imaging and RDE technology supports this mission by enhancing the ability of CBP officers and agents to examine cargo, privately-owned vehicles, luggage, parcels, and mail using x-ray, gamma-ray, and NII support equipment for the presence of contraband to include components of weapons of mass destruction, other articles and instruments used in support of terrorist activities, narcotics, undeclared currency, and other illegal imports being smuggled across U.S. borders.
U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) uses a layered enforcement strategy to fulfill its mission of preventing terrorists, terrorist weapons, and contraband from entering the United States.

NII technologies are considered force multipliers that enable us to scan or examine a larger portion of the stream of traffic for contraband while facilitating the flow of legitimate trade, cargo, and passengers.
Types of Large Scale NII Systems

- Large-scale NII systems are capable of imaging an entire conveyance
- CBP has deployed both mobile and fixed-site NII systems, using gamma ray and x-ray imaging capabilities
- X-ray imaging systems include high-energy systems and low-energy systems
- Each system has unique performance characteristics that provide CBP with an enhanced capability to image cargo conveyances and passenger vehicles for the presence of contraband
- Deploying multiple systems in different combinations increases the probability that contraband will be detected.
- High-energy systems have enhanced performance characteristics such as greater penetration capabilities and higher image resolution and contrast sensitivity
- Low-energy systems with backscatter technology have minimal penetration capabilities but can provide a photo-like image of a scanned conveyance; they are best suited for identifying organic materials such as narcotics, explosives, and stowaways in vehicles
Gamma-ray Systems
Small-Scale NII Technologies

101 X-RAY VAN

LASER RANGE FINDER

PORTABLE CONTRABAND DETECTOR – “BUSTER”

LARGE BAGGAGE SYSTEM

FIBER OPTIC SCOPE

SMALL BAGGAGE SYSTEM

TOOL TRUCK