AlburyCity

Australian Communication and Media Authority

The Bay Centre
65 Pirrama Road
PRYMONT NSW 2009

26 April 2023

To whom it may concern,

By way of introduction, I'm the Team Leader Airport Operations at Albury Airport. Part of my responsibilities is to ensure the overall compliance and efficient operation of the airport's Security Screening points.

This letter is being submitted to request the Australian Communication and Media Authority (ACMA) consider modifying the existing Leidos Body Scanner Class License as part of this year's Works program. We support Leidos' modification request to allow for their new generation of Body Scanners which operate from 20-40 GHz.

We believe the safe development of new generation Body Scanner technologies should be prioritised in order to improve safety, security and operational efficiency for all passengers. To that end, and as explained by Leidos, the company's millimetre wave scanning technology has an improved capability of detecting weapons and/or contraband which might otherwise require intrusive physical searches or be overlooked by existing legacy metal detectors. Albury Airport considers the new generation Body Scanner technology to deliver multiple advantages, including but not limited to:

- Improved detection of concealed prohibited items;
- Decreased false alarm rates, thereby reducing delays in passenger throughput;
- Reduced processing time, allowing airports to optimise their operational capacity; and
- Increased positive passenger experience.

Amongst other challenges in the Aviation sector, the high false alarms with the current generation of Body Scanners is a compounding pain point for Australian airports and likely many airports abroad. The anticipated release of the next generation Leidos' PV3 Body Scanner with an expanded frequency range 20-40 GHz range is ideal for security screening of persons. It is our understanding the operating wavelength of the transmitted signals can easily pass through clothing while reflecting from the skin, providing the resolution necessary to enable robust threat detection algorithms without harmful Radio Frequency energy. Reliability enhancements not only protect public safety but also enable performance improvements of screening without causing undue operational pressures.

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The PV3 with an expected low false alarm digits will be a game changer for the industry, it will streamline passenger processing and increase throughput at all Australian Airport Security Screening check points. Most importantly, the reduced false alarms mitigates the need for time consuming and confrontational secondary inspections. Additionally, this addresses the human factor concerns that have resulted in Security Screening staff nationally becoming increasingly disenfranchised and demotivated due to unacceptably high false alarm rates from legacy equipment.

Albury Airport uses the Leidos ProVision 2 (PV2) to screen passengers, and is considering upgrading the PV2 to the next generation PV3 because of the operational advantages the next generation Body Scanner has to offer when the expanded class license is granted. This advanced screening technology is crucial for the national aviation security framework. It is encourage the class license should also be extended more broader into the critical infrastructure sector.

Albury Airport fully supports Leidos' request and respectfully requests that ACMA grant Leidos' submission into the Work Program.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information.

Kind regards

[redacted]

Nick Politis
Team Leader Airport Operations
Albury Airport