

New explosives detection system machine in use at Columbus Airport

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A new Reveal explosives detection system (EDS) machine, used to screen checked baggage, is now in use at the Columbus Airport.

Gerry Phelan, federal security director for the Transportation Security Administration(TSA), made the announcement during a Tuesday morning press conference at the airport, saying it will help TSA officers screen checked baggage more quickly and efficiently.

The new machine, a Reveal CT-80DR, uses CT scan technology and sophisticated algorithms to quickly determine if a bag contains a potential threat. If the machine detects something, it alerts TSA officers who can take appropriate measures, including searching the bag by hand.

This new equipment was purchased with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. As of May 2010, TSA has deployed 354 of these units at 142 different airports. Each Reveal EDS costs approximately \$340,000 and is smaller than other EDS machines in use at other airports.

Previously, TSA officers had to swab each bag to screen it for explosives.