

THE AWARDS ASIA 2021

Technological Innovation of the Year

Institution name	Hong Kong Baptist University
Submission title or project name	BU-Trace: A Privacy-Preserving Alert System to Help Contain COVID-19
Nominee/key personnel	Professor Jianliang Xu, Hong Kong Baptist University Department of Computer Science
URL	https://research.hkbu.edu.hk/news/hkbu-deploys-new-ai-enhanced-covid-19-alert-system
Submission	<p>Contact tracing has been widely recognized to be an effective nonpharmaceutical intervention (NPI) measure for reducing the transmission of COVID-19. Compared with the traditional manual-based method, digital contract tracing is more efficient, cost-effective, and not limited by a patient's recollection.</p> <p>Oxford scientists estimated that the pandemic can be stopped if approximately 60% of the population use a contact tracing app. A notable barrier, however, is the concern over user privacy, which affects the system's uptake. BU-Trace, called "a breakthrough in contact tracing" by the Standard and awarded the "Best Paper Award" by the International Workshop on Mobile Ubiquitous Systems and Technologies, addressed this challenge by several innovative technologies.</p>