

THE AWARDS 2020

Research Project of the Year: STEM

Institution name	University of Reading
Submission title or project name	PROTECT – Border checks on-the-go
Nominee/key personnel	Professor James Ferryman, Computer Sciences
URL	http://projectprotect.eu/
Submission	<p>Robust border control is essential, but long security queues awaiting weary travellers are not. And now, with social distancing measures in place, seamless and contactless border checks are set to become a critical part of a global recovery.</p> <p>Commencing in September 2016, this €5m EU Horizon 2020 project saw Professor Ferryman, in collaboration with over 50 stakeholders, design and build innovative biometric technology and smartphone app – PROTECT. The unique system has privacy and security at its core and keeps people moving while ensuring accurate identity verification and border security. At the border the traveller simply opens the PROTECT app and passes through, with biometric identity verification performed on-the-move.</p> <p>The project has directly informed policymakers in Brussels towards the legislative changes needed to install the ‘corridors’ at borders throughout the EU. And now, after testing its effectiveness at two international borders, the technology is set to expand to use in transportation systems and access points to sports stadia.</p>