A £2 million competition, to help find new ways to protect air passengers, has been announced by the Government’s Future Aviation Security Solutions (FASS) team.

The joint Home Office and Department for Transport team has launched a competition through the Centre for Defence Enterprise (CDE) as part of its wider FASS programme, worth £25.5million until 2021.

**Suppliers are being asked to develop truly innovative technologies, with a focus on people, baggage and cargo security.**

The technologies and approaches should help detect the widest possible range of explosives, weapons and other threats that could be taken onto an aircraft, while limiting any inconvenience caused to passengers or delays to cargo operations.

Lord (Tariq) Ahmad, Minister for Aviation said: ‘Keeping passengers safe is our absolute priority. The threat to aviation is continuing to evolve and we must remain both vigilant and a step ahead with our response. The recent UN Security Council resolution on Aviation Security, which was championed by the UK has called on States to promote new technologies and innovative techniques. Through this competition we are investing in research to raise screening standards, and helping to create a safer and more secure transport system.’

This is one of the first competitions to benefit from additional support and resources as CDE transitions to become the Defence and Security Accelerator, recently announced by the Secretary of State for Defence.

Security Minister Ben Wallace said: ‘Air travel is already one of the safest and most secure ways to travel but as threats change, our response must change with it. I would like to see entries to this competition which will make our skies even safer for passengers and, where it is safe to do so, give them a smoother experience at the airport.’

The competition opened to proposals on 20 October 2016 and will run in two parts, with £1million in each phase. At the end of Phase 1, successful projects
will be asked to demonstrate proof of concept of their technology and explain their proposed approach to transition the concept to a mature operational solution. Bidders funded at Phase 1 qualify for entry into Phase 2 of this competition where up to an additional £1 million of funding will be made available.

Proposals must be received by CDE by 1700 on 19 January 2017. Competition details are now available on the CDE website here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cde-themed-competition-the-future-of-aviation-security

**About Dstl**
The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) maximises the impact of science and technology (S&T) for the defence and security of the UK, supplying sensitive and specialist S&T services for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and wider government.

Dstl is an Executive Agency of the MOD, run along commercial lines. It is one of the principal government organisations dedicated to S&T in the defence and security field, with three main sites at Porton Down, near Salisbury, Portsdown West, near Portsmouth, and Fort Halstead, near Sevenoaks.

Dstl works with a wide range of partners and suppliers in industry, in academia and overseas. Around 60% of MOD’s Science and Technology Programme is delivered by these external partners and suppliers.