

SmartGate gold award for excellence

SmartGate Series 1, for all passengers, will be introduced into the first Australian international airport in early 2007 and at other international airports based on the rate of uptake of the new ePassport.

The Australian Government has committed \$61.7 million over the next four years to the rollout.

For more information on SmartGate please visit the Customs website:
www.customs.gov.au



Back row, from left: Audi Miniotas, Peter Siomos, Ellen Brophy, Joanne Churchill, then CEO Lionel Woodward, Gail Batman, Kim Marshall, Jacqueline Lee.

Front row, from left: Timothy Pullyblank, Karel Jenicek, Mark Collidge, Ranald Kennard, Tim Chapman, James Ord-Hume, Ole Andersen.

Customs trial of face-recognition technology for passport processing has been recognised by the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Sector Management. At a ceremony in Canberra, then Chief Executive Officer Lionel Woodward accepted the award on behalf of Customs.

The SmartGate trial was the result of a Customs vision to develop an automated border-processing system using biometric technology to replace manual processes by Customs officers at immigration processing points.

Customs launched the trial, with Qantas international crew, in November 2002 at Sydney International Airport. In 2004, it was installed at Melbourne, and some frequent flyers were invited to enrol.

Mr Woodward said the award was the culmination of four years of research, development and trials of the technology.

He paid tribute to the team of staff around Australia who contributed to the development program.

"The success of the SmartGate trial was the result of the diverse mix of skills, abilities, enthusiasm and perseverance of the dedicated project team, who transformed a visionary concept into a successful live trial of a world-first technology," Mr Woodward said.

It is the second time that Customs has won a gold award for public sector management. In 2003, Customs achieved the prize for its container x-ray initiative. In 2004, Customs won a bronze award for its Detector Dog Breeding Centre in Melbourne.

Any work unit, group or team within the Commonwealth, State or Territory and Local Government public sectors may nominate for the award.