

New Device Aims At Helping Border Officials Determine If Migrant Children Are Related to Adults Claiming Parentship

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Published May 3, 2019



WASHINGTON – 21 May 2019 — A U.S. firm has developed a hand method that could fit into a handheld device that uses multi-modal biometrics to help determine if migrant children are actually related to the adults bringing them across the border.

Such identification is critical as family units are often given different processing and relocation paths for processing into the United States.

Additionally, the device would help in the effort to reduce child smuggling or to that individual posing as parents of unaccompanied minors.

“You put your hand in the machine, it will scan the bone surface, blood vessels, flesh and partial DNA using sound, these biometric makers that will be similar (between a parent and child) are also part of the identity we look at to confirm you are you,” Robert Adams, the founder of Global e-identity, told TMN in an interview.

Adams said his company will submit a bid to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in September or when they see the DHS RFQ.

The biometric authentication of a subject is generated from a non-invasive, multi-dimensional image scan of a subject or a portion of the individual, such as a hand or face. The profile is generated by identifying relative locations of divots and peaks on a surface of a bone structure or by identifying the branch intersections and traversals of blood vessels, Adams said.

The process rests on detecting thousands of data points from a subject’s bone surface, hand, or full-body bone structure. The scan measures their spatial relationships to one another; identify a subject’s unique heartbeat pattern and blood flow, which also proves a live being is being evaluated; detects subcutaneous vascular patterns, using blood flow and heartbeat as two forms of proof of life; measures their spatial relationships to one another, and then matches the data collected above with reference data to confirm the identity of a specific living being, the

company's website explains.

"Instead of 50 parents saying this is my kid, the system will determine," Adams said. "The system goes in, scans your hand, and then compares you against who you say this is your parent or your sibling."

The system is called "U.I.D.™" because it makes "you" — the individual — his or her own identification vessel.

Adams said because of continual machine learning, there is pattern recognition that builds to permit, in some cases, identification by region of where the individuals hail. "Our AI (artificial intelligence) is taught to pick that up," Adams said.

He also said the device will be invaluable in ferreting terrorists from groups of individuals and elsewhere, surpassing the benefits of things like fingerprints and voice recognition.

His team of 12 completed the initial development of the device in 2016 and filed for patents in 2017. Adams' tool comes as DHS announced that migrants attempting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border with children will be asked to take a voluntary DNA test to prove they are related.

The DHS announcement, made on May 1, said the pilot program could begin the week of May 6. They did not specify locations for the tests in an effort not to tilt the flow of migrants away from some parts of the border, officials said.

The DNA test will take about two hours and will be obtained using a cheek swab from both the adult and child, DHS officials said on May 1.

Adams said he realized the need for better ways to identify individuals while working as deputy commercial officer in the U.S. embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

"People would come in an assume identities, figuring out how to game to the system," Adams said. He said as identification methods move from fingerprints — which Adams said has been corrupted — to facial recognition to retina identification, people are still "gaming the system and taking a lot."

"I said there has got to be a way to protect the money," Adams said. "These people were one person this day and tomorrow they were this name, as they hide behind fake passports and lie about who they are."

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