



# Mobile Nonintrusive Inspection Systems

*October 10, 2023*

Fiscal Year 2023 Report to Congress



**Homeland  
Security**

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection*

# Message from the Acting Deputy Commissioner of CBP

October 10, 2023

I am pleased to submit the following “Mobile Nonintrusive Inspection (NII) Systems” report, which was prepared by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

This report was compiled pursuant to direction set forth in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-328). The report provides a summary of the operational utility of mobile systems, the current inventory, and planned enhancements.

Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable David Joyce  
Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Henry Cuellar  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Chris Murphy  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Katie Britt  
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

I would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 344-2001.

Sincerely,



Pete R. Flores  
Acting Deputy Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection



# Executive Summary

A key aspect to CBP's layered strategy is the use of non-intrusive inspection (NII) systems to inspect larger portions of the stream of traffic safely, quickly, and effectively. In FY 2022, CBP officers utilized approximately 370 large scale NII systems to scan almost 8 million conveyances, which aided in the interdiction of more than 100,000 pounds of narcotics, approximately \$2 million of undeclared U.S. currency, and the identification of 86 illegal travelers.

Large scale NII systems include both fixed and mobile units — approximately 206 mobile units are in CBP's NII fleet. The average age of these systems is 7 years old; however, approximately 36 percent of the fleet has exceeded its estimated useful life of 10 years. CBP is actively working to develop an NII recapitalization plan to identify the best capabilities to replace these systems based on resource availability.



# Mobile Non-Intrusive Inspection Systems

## Table of Contents

I.	Legislative Language.....	1
II.	Background.....	2
III.	Operational Utility .....	3
IV.	Current Inventory (as of April 1, 2023).....	4
V.	Planned Enhancements .....	5
VI.	Conclusion .....	6
VII.	Appendix: List of Abbreviations .....	7

# I. Legislative Language

This report was compiled pursuant to the direction set forth in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the FY 2023 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-328).

The Joint Explanatory Statement states:

*Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII).*—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, CBP shall provide a report on the current status of mobile NII technology and proposals for enhancing it.

## II. Background

As threats change and ports of entry reconfigure, mobile systems offer great utility. Mobile non-intrusive inspection (NII) systems also enable the introduction of uncertainty into inspection routines through random deployments and the ability to surge resources, as necessary.

### III. Operational Utility

U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) fleet of mobile systems include a total of 206<sup>1</sup> low energy, medium energy, and high energy systems. Mobile large-scale NII imaging systems can be moved amongst ports of entry and checkpoints when necessary to meet CBP requirements. The trucks and mobile platforms have engines and are driven from one location to another as required. The NII computers are secured inside truck cabs or platform kiosks, securely fastened to the truck body or chassis. In addition, the cabs and kiosks are locked.

- **Low Energy Mobile:** The low energy mobile and mobile relocatable systems are solutions for scanning passenger cars and other light vehicles in large numbers to reveal anomalies (including explosives, drugs, and currency) in high-throughput environments like border crossings. The low X-ray dose systems allow drivers and passengers to remain in the vehicle while scanning in the normal flow of checkpoint traffic. The system scans entire vehicles, bumper to bumper, in a few seconds and can be quickly relocated without disassembly.
- **Medium Energy Mobile:** A medium energy mobile system offers high-quality detection capabilities in a compact mobile configuration. The system uses dual-energy transmission imaging to inspect trucks and cargo containers for weapons, explosives, drugs, and other contraband. The system itself, along with the associated radiation-controlled zone, is smaller than typical high energy mobile systems, allowing operators to set up scanning areas at congested locations such as U.S. Border Patrol checkpoints.

The fully self-contained system includes all components and capabilities required to scan containers, vehicles, and a wide range of cargo. The system does not require a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to operate and can be driven on the open roads.

- **High Energy Mobile:** A high energy mobile system offers high-quality detection capabilities in a compact mobile configuration. The system uses dual-energy transmission imaging to inspect trucks and cargo containers for weapons, explosives, drugs, and other contraband. The system itself, along with the associated radiation-controlled zone, is smaller than typical high-energy mobile systems, allowing operators to set up scanning areas at congested locations such as U.S. Border Patrol checkpoints.

The fully self-contained system includes all components and capabilities required to scan containers, vehicles, and a wide range of cargo. While scanning at the port, this system does not require a CDL to operate; however, a CDL is required to transport the system on public highways/roadways between ports and other locations on public lands.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: U.S. CBP NII Raw Data Report, dated April 1, 2023. NII mobile units only; does not include TX view trailers.

## IV. Current Inventory (as of April 1, 2023)

As of April 1, 2023, CBP utilized 206 mobile NII systems. Table 1 provides the number of systems and the average age of each system type.

<b>System Type</b>	<b>Number of Systems</b>	<b>Average Age (Years)</b>
High Energy Mobile	17	12
Low Energy Mobile	91	10
Medium Energy Mobile	98	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>7</b>



## V. Planned Enhancements

CBP's estimated useful life of large-scale NII systems is 10 years. While the average age of the mobile fleet is 7 years old, approximately 75 units exceed the estimated 10-year useful life age. CBP is actively looking at opportunities to replace these systems with a focus on matching the system capability to the operational environment. CBP is looking to enhance the mobile fleet with the following ideal capabilities:

- Reduced maintenance costs by replacing legacy parts with less expensive components;
- Integrated data platform containing images, manifests, driver information, etc.;
- Centralized, integrated, and secure database management;
- Automated and assisted target recognition;
- Common viewer platform for all vendors; and,
- Remote maintenance.

## VI. Conclusion

Large-scale mobile NII systems play a critical role in CBP's layered enforcement strategy, particularly in surge support operations and in environments with smaller footprints. CBP will continue to utilize the systems to conduct routine and random inspections at and between ports of entry. CBP will also continue to identify opportunities to replace aging systems with those that offer enhanced capabilities and reduced maintenance costs.

## VII. Appendix: List of Abbreviations

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
CDL	Commercial Driver's License
FOUO	For Official Use Only
FY	Fiscal Year
NII	Non-Intrusive Inspection