

27 July 2023

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Dear potential participant,

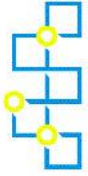
DASA MARKET EXPLORATION CALL - Supporting The Development Of Facial Recognition Technology For Law Enforcement And The Home Office.

The Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire and I strongly support the development and implementation of facial recognition (FR) technology within the law enforcement sector and are encouraged by its potential for application across wider Home Office interests. We firmly believe that embracing this advanced technology can significantly enhance public safety while respecting individual rights and privacy. Industry is pivotal to realisation of that mission.

FR technology has gained substantial attention due to its potential to revolutionise law enforcement and security practices. By leveraging sophisticated algorithms and machine learning techniques, FR systems can aid the identification of individuals from images or video footage. The use of such technology can be instrumental in various crucial aspects of law enforcement and security, including but not limited to:

1. **Crime Prevention and Investigation:** FR can provide a powerful tool to prevent and investigate crimes. It enables real-time identification of suspects, helping to swiftly locate and apprehend individuals involved in criminal activities. The ability to match faces against databases of known offenders, missing persons, or persons of interest can significantly enhance the speed and accuracy of investigations.
2. **Public Safety and Security:** Deploying FR in public spaces, transportation hubs, and critical infrastructure areas can bolster security measures. The technology can help identify potential threats, detect suspicious activity, ensuring a safer environment for citizens.
3. **Enhancing Efficiency and Resource Allocation:** Augmentation of identification processes with FR technology can significantly reduce the increasing demand on police resources when compared to traditional identification methods. This efficiency gain allows police to

**Engage widely.
Evolve strategically.
Embed the best.**



focus on other critical tasks, optimise resource allocation, and allocate expertise to crime priorities.

4. Anonymisation of Data: FR algorithms can be applied to blur or obscure faces in images or videos, preserving privacy when accessing and sharing visual content. By anonymising facial features, these algorithms can help prevent the identification of individuals and protect privacy rights.

It is essential to acknowledge the concerns surrounding FR technology, particularly those relating to privacy and potential biases. However, responsible development and implementation of FR systems can address these concerns effectively. By establishing robust governance frameworks, implementing strict data protection protocols, and ensuring transparency and accountability, we can strike the right balance between public safety and individual privacy rights.

To maximise the technological benefits and minimise the risks associated with FR, it is crucial that we support and encourage industry to continue developing capabilities which can be deployed effectively and ethically.

We encourage you to engage in this market exploration activity, which will help us understand the maturity of the commercial market and gain an insight into future capabilities. Your participation in this process will inform the next steps in the assessment and adoption of FR by law enforcement and government partners.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Taylor'.

Professor Paul Taylor
Police Chief Scientific Adviser