3-D Body Holographic (millimeter wave) Scanner

SUMMARY

Imaging technology for security applications emerged as a need when the Federal Aviation Administration sought ways to detect concealed plastic threats that would not be picked up by traditional metal detectors in airports.

Researchers at PNNL engineered a high-resolution radar imaging technology as a way to rapidly scan for potential threats. Millimeter waves harmlessly penetrate clothing and reflect off of the body, sending signals back to a transceiver; the transceiver then sends the signals to a high-speed computer, which reconstructs them to create a final 3-D holographic image. Under the auspices of the TSA, the technology was successfully demonstrated in U.S. airports. L3 Communications has licensed the technology, and their ProVision™ whole body imaging system is currently being deployed for security screening at airports around the world.

In addition, millimeter wave technology also serves the apparel industry, taking customer measurements to help make tailored clothing through a product offered by Unique Solutions. The development team continues to develop new applications for the proven technology. Contact us today for more information about commercial licensing opportunities.

ADVANTAGES

* Not harmful to humans; mm waves are a form of non-ionizing radiation
* Uses extremely low-powered millimeter waves that easily penetrate clothing
* Small system footprint allows the scanner to be located in confined spaces

In security applications:
* Scans completed in 1-2 seconds using a two-array system to keep people moving through security check points quickly

In apparel applications:
* High-speed scanning process requires only 6-12 seconds to provide 360-degree
scan using single array (less costly than a two-array system as used in security applications)

- Allows highly-accurate, full-surface measurements, including circumference, lengths and contour mapping
- Permits accurate 3-D body measurements to be taken while remaining in street clothes
- Body scans can be conducted quickly and conveniently in public places, such as shopping centers; eliminates the need for staffed fitting rooms
- Potentially lower system and operating costs than other measurement systems

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT & AVAILABILITY

Other potential applications include:

- Medical: provide accurate measurements of individuals who are not mobile and may be difficult to measure for prosthetic devices
- Ergonomics: provide measurements and images for manufacturing better office chairs, form-fitting car and aviation seats, cockpits, custom sports equipment
- Entertainment and Gaming: create avatars for gaming, interactive human animation, virtual environment interaction
- Non-Destructive Evaluation: provide moisture measurements: detection of moisture in wood products fabrication process, integration of microwave holographic imaging sensor into production process
- In-wall Structure Detection: detect concealed structures behind building walls such as plastic conduit, wires, and pipes

RELATED LINKS

- L3-Safeview
  Strategic Partner/Licensee
  http://www.dsrxray.com

- Me-Ality
  Strategic Partner/Licensee
  http://www.me-ality.com/

- Transportation Security Administration
  Strategic Partner
  http://www.tsa.gov/

- Applied Physics at PNNL
  Learn more about the Laboratory’s broad expertise in electromagnetic signatures
  http://www.pnl.gov/nationalsecurity/technical/applied_physics/

- Millimeter Wave Technology Website
  http://www.pnl.gov/nationalsecurity/millimeterwave/index.stm

Patents & Intellectual Property

- IP Summaries
- Patent #: 5,455,590
- Patent #: 5,557,283
- Patent #: 5,859,609
- Patent #: 6,507,309
- Patent #: 6,703,964
- Patent #: 6,876,322
- European Patent #: 0925517
- German Patent #: 6970890

Technology Portfolio(s)

- Electronics
- Physical Sensors

Potential Industry Applications

- Aerospace & Defense
- Automotive & Transportation
- Computers & Electronics
- Energy & Utilities
- Entertainment & Recreation
- Fabric & Apparel
- Healthcare, Pharma, Biotech & Medical
- Security
- Wood, Paper & Forestry

Bruce J. Harrer
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
(509) 375-6958
bruce.harrer@pnnl.gov
http://availabletechnologies.pnnl.gov