

Handheld device to detect illegal substances

KUALA LUMPUR: A handheld machine has been developed to conduct checks on people and luggage coming in through the country's entry points.

A British company is displaying the machine called the Sabre 5000 for the first time at this year's Defence Services Asia (DSA) show.

The Sabre 5000 can be used to detect illegal drugs and hazardous materials such as explosives, chemical warfare agents or toxic items.

"The machine uses technology already available to detect offensive items, but this is the first time that a handheld detector is being used.

"If someone has handled illegal drugs, you just take a swab and you can find traces of the drug on his handphone or laptop bag," said Smiths Detection [managing director Nathan Manzi](#).

The British company also showed off the just-released RadSeeker handheld radiation detector and identifier.

It detects radio-isotope emissions which can help identify nuclear materials.

"You just have to carry it and point it around. You will then see whether a cargo or a aircraft passenger's luggage has unusual radiation levels," he added.

Manzi said the RadSeeker could also identify the actual radio-isotope and dose levels.

"It's useful especially when there are concerns over foodstuff imported from Japan since it was hit by the earthquake and tsunami last year," he added.

Manzi said Sabre 5000 and Radseeker had received a lot of attention from many government officials during the show.

"They like the fact that it is portable, plus sniffer dogs need rest time unlike these machines," he added.