

**MEDIA RELEASE**

15 MARCH 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Perth-based research and development company System Two has developed ground breaking new technology which will enable airport security to detect explosives within liquids using a simple swab test.

Responding to upcoming plans to lift the current ban on passengers carrying liquids in hand luggage, the Liquid Explosive Test Kit (LETK) could be implemented in airports throughout Europe in 2010.

System Two's Research Director Chris Loane developed the technology and said the LETK was single use, disposable and economical and detected explosive residues in liquids, gels and creams.

"The LETK is easy to use and contains a sterile swab stick and test card with five miniature tests that respond to all classes of explosives, including those used in clandestine terrorist laboratories," said Mr Loane

System Two is part of the European Commission Aviation Conference Technical Taskforce Liquid Explosives Study Group, with the LETK scheduled to undergo pilot tests in Europe in mid 2009.

Existing rules that limit airline passengers carrying liquids on board aircraft were introduced in 2006 and are due to expire in early 2010.

With more than 1.5 billion passengers travelling through 400 European airports each year, the liquid ban is estimated to have cost Britain's aviation industry alone more than £100m in increased security costs and lost duty free sales.

"The LETK is the most affordable, compact and comprehensive liquid explosive test device available and is therefore an ideal detection tool for small regional airports as well as larger international hubs," said Mr Loane.

The LETK can work alone to detect explosives in opened containers and can also work compatibly with current screening technology such as x-ray.

With trial results pending, the LETK can also be implemented in other security industry sectors such as emergency services, the military, ports and customs.

**About System Two Pty Ltd**

System Two Pty Ltd is a Perth-based research and development company specialising in the commercialisation of innovative chemical technology across a broad section of industries.

Established in 2004, System Two's philosophy is based on simple solutions developed from accessible technology.

**Ends****Media Contact:**

Diranne Lee-Renwick  
Commercial Director  
System Two Pty Ltd

E: [diranne@sys-2.com](mailto:diranne@sys-2.com)  
M: +61 (0) 417 912 372

The Times Online – 12th March 2009

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/travel/news/article5891280.ece>

## Airlines' limit on liquid in hand luggage to be lifted

*Ben Webster,  
Transport Correspondent, The Times Online*

### **Ban imposed after alleged plot to blow up transatlantic flights has cost aviation industry £100 million**

Airline passengers will be able to carry any amount of liquid in hand luggage under Government plans to relax restrictions after the upgrade of airport X-ray machines.

Passengers will no longer be limited to 100 millilitre bottles and will be able to buy duty-free alcohol without the risk of it being confiscated.

The screening technology is undergoing secret tests at laboratories in Germany, where scientists are checking its accuracy in detecting bottles of hydrogen peroxide and other liquids that can be turned into bombs.

The ban on liquids was imposed overnight in August 2006 after the discovery of an alleged British terrorist plot to blow up transatlantic flights. Eight men are on trial at Woolwich Crown Court accused of planning to detonate suicide bombs on seven flights departing from Heathrow within hours of each other.

The liquid ban has cost Britain's aviation industry more than £100million in increased security costs and lost duty-free sales. BAA, which has seven British airports including Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, had to employ 3,500 more screening staff. Two tonnes of alcohol a month are still being confiscated at Heathrow alone, along with thousands of bottles of perfume and other toiletries.

A senior Whitehall source said that the ban would be lifted at a limited number of airports, possibly as soon as this autumn.

"The restrictions will start to be removed in six months to a year's time and passengers will be allowed to carry any size of bottle they like inside their hand luggage, just as they were before the summer of 2006," the source said.

"Airports will have to demonstrate that they have invested in the technology, so it will not be a blanket lifting of the restrictions." He said that a BAA airport would be involved in the trial because the company had already installed advanced threat identification X-ray machines.

These machines, costing more than £100,000 each, have the capacity, after a software upgrade, to distinguish between harmless liquids and potentially explosive ones.

Philip Baum, the editor of Aviation Security magazine, said that a selective lifting of the liquids ban would add to the widespread confusion among passengers about different security requirements in different countries.

"We need much greater harmonisation of security procedures and any changes will have to be communicated very carefully to passengers. People may hear the ban has been lifted and wrongly assume it applies to their airport."

Thousands of passengers a day misinterpret the ban. Manchester airport has listed the variety of ways passengers had tried to circumvent it. One man with bottles of frozen water claimed that they were solids and therefore exempt; they were confiscated. Another passenger drank a bottle of vodka in front of security staff to avoid having it confiscated; he was later removed from the flight for being drunk.

The Australian Online – 12th March 2009

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25178143-12335,00.html>

## Airline liquid bans to be lifted

*From correspondents in London*

*Article from: Australian Associated Press*

**BANS limiting the amount of liquid airline passengers can carry as they fly in and out of Britain are expected to be lifted at some airports by the end of the year.**

The British Government is preparing to relax its ban on liquids, which limits passengers to carrying 100 millilitre bottles, as it introduces improved X-ray machines at airports.

Scientists in Germany have been carrying out secret tests on new screening technology designed to detect bottles of potentially explosive liquids that could be used to make bombs.

A government source told The Times newspaper today that the new technology would allow the liquid ban to be lifted at a limited number of airports before the end of the year.

"The restrictions will start to be removed in six months to a year's time and passengers will be allowed to carry any size bottle they like inside their hand luggage, just as they were before the summer of 2006," the source told the newspaper.

The bans were introduced after police uncovered an alleged British terrorist plot to blow up transatlantic flights in August 2006.

Eight men accused of planning to detonate suicide bombs on seven flights out of London's Heathrow airport are currently on trial in England.

The ban has meant millions of bottles of duty free alcohol, toiletries and perfume bottles have been confiscated amid confusion among passengers about what they are allowed to carry on board.