PARSEC NEWS

EU Commission Approves Key Amendment for PARSEC Project to Overcome Challenges and Ensure Completion

The PARSEC project (Parcel and Letter Security for Postal and Express Courier Flows) has successfully received approval from the EU Commission for a second amendment to its Grant Agreement in November 2024. This approval comes in response to unforeseen challenges, including the bankruptcy of a key partner and the subsequent adjustments made to ensure the project remains on track to meet its goals. With the amendment now formally approved, the project consortium is moving forward with confidence, knowing that the necessary changes will ensure a successful and timely completion.

Introducing a new technology

Earlier this year, the PARSEC project encountered a major setback when Dynaxion, one of its technology provider partners, declared bankruptcy. This unexpected event placed critical tasks in jeopardy. In response, the project consortium quickly implemented urgent safeguard measures through a first amendment, allowing the project to continue while a search for a new partner was initiated.

With the EU Commission's approval of the second amendment, the PARSEC partners can now confirm that a comprehensive solution has been reached. Smiths Detection Technologies[1], a leader in security technology, will replace the original neuron-based detection technology with Computed Tomography (CT) X-ray scan technology, which will offer enhanced detection capabilities. This solution has been fully supported by all project partners, ensuring that the project can continue as planned, albeit with the necessary adaptations.

[1] https://www.smithsdetection.com/press-releases/smiths-detection-launches-compact-ct-checkpoint-x-ray/

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The HI-SCAN 6040 CTiX fits well with the PARSEC project objectives because it provides a reliable, cost-effective, and proven solution that enhances threat detection capabilities while ensuring smooth integration into the system-of-systems architecture. It aligns with the PARSEC goal of improving security without disrupting commerce, and its capabilities, such as real-time 3D imaging, automatic explosive detection, and system interoperability, make it a perfect replacement for the original DYN neutron system.

Hurricane Modular Commerce joins the PARSEC Consortium as Associated partner

In response to the increasing challenges faced in the Data Science Work Package 3 (WP3), due to the increased volume and complexity of eCommerce, the PARSEC consortium has also welcomed Hurricane Modular Commerce[2]

as a new associated partner[3]. Hurricane Modular Commerce will provide critical expertise and access to their extensive data resources, helping to advance the analysis and application of data within the project. Their contribution will significantly bolster the progress of WP3.

Hurricane Commerce's involvement with global experience will ensure that the data analysis required for PARSEC's security solutions moves forward smoothly and efficiently, bringing much-needed support to the project at this critical stage.

Extending the Project Timeline to Ensure Completion

Finding a new suitable detection technology and adapting the project to the new technology introduced, caused some delays. As part of the approved amendment, the EU Commission has agreed to a five-month extension to the project timeline postponing to the new project deadline of 28 February 2026. This additional time will enable the consortium to complete all remaining tasks, including the final demonstration of the new technology and a thorough evaluation of its effectiveness.

The extension is crucial to ensure that all objectives are fully met, including the optimisation of the data science, the integration of Smiths Detection's CT X-ray scanners, as well as the completion of final project deliverables. This decision underscores the EU Commission's commitment to supporting innovative security projects that enhance cross-border safety and security.

[2] https://hurricanecommerce.com/

[3] Associated partners are full consortium partners but do not benefit from EU Horizon funding.

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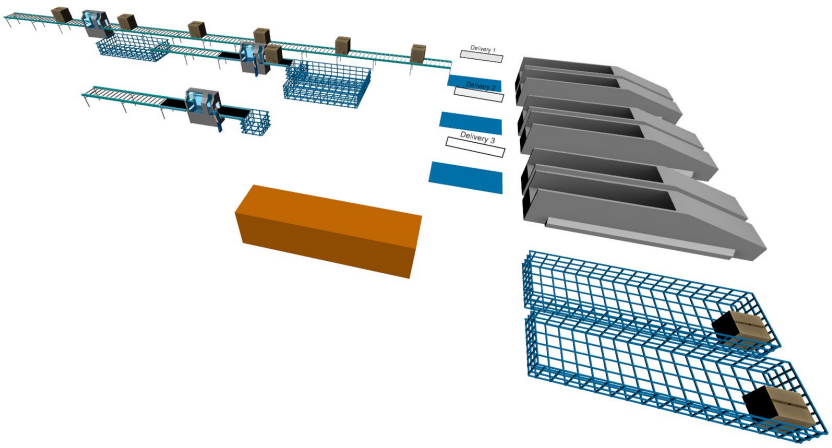
Publication of the scientific article "Parcel flow simulation tool of PARSEC 'SYSTEM-OF-SYSTEMS' scanning technology architecture" in the Vol. 23, No. 4, December 2024 of the *International Journal of Simulation Modelling*[4] (IJSIMM) journal.

The paper, prepared by the PARSEC researchers under the leadership of Professor Dr Goran DUKIC[5], presents a preliminary study on the development of the PARSEC flow-simulation tool, which aims to improve parcel flow management for customs by integrating advanced detection technologies into parcel handling processes. The simulation model incorporates three scanning technologies into a system-of-systems approach. Initial results demonstrate the potential for high detection rates and reduced false alarms, thereby minimizing costly and time-consuming manual inspections. By addressing important issues in parcel management flows, this tool could significantly enhance decision-making for secure and efficient parcel processing, making it adaptable to different facility sizes and operational conditions.



A commitment to Success and Collaboration

The approval of the amendment by the EU Commission reflects the collaborative nature of the PARSEC project and the commitment of all 19 project partners to overcoming unforeseen obstacles. While the circumstances remain challenging, the proactive efforts of the coordinator in close cooperation with all consortium partners, along with the EU's support, have ensured that the project will continue to thrive and is well underway to reach its objectives.

The PARSEC project remains a crucial initiative focused on enhancing the security of international postal and express courier flows. By integrating innovative detection technologies and improving data analysis capabilities, the creation of a 'system of systems' by PARSEC is setting a new standard for security in the logistics industry.

[4] https://www.ijsimm.com/
[5] https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Goran-Dukic

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