



Newsletter

Edition 4, March 2020

Welcome to the latest newsletter of EXERTER, an EU Funded H2020 project. EXERTER commenced in May 2018 and is a five year project which seeks to connect practitioners into a pan-European network of explosives specialists.

EXERTER Annual Conference 2020

The EXERTER Annual Conference was due to take place in May 2020, however due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, the project have taken the decision to postpone the conference until later in 2020. The project cannot provide a date at this time due to the current uncertainty across Europe but please be assured that as soon as the dates are confirmed the details will be published to allow those wishing to attend to register and book travel.

On behalf of the project we would like to wish you safe health at this difficult time and to thank our first responders who are at the front line of fighting this pandemic.

EXERTER Attends UK Home Office Event

The EXERTER project was represented at the Security & Policing Home Office Event in Farnborough March 3-5, an annual, official UK government event, focussing on bringing together end users with industry to exploit the latest innovations and products in security and policing, counter terrorism and borders. Participation as a visitor for this event was by invitation only and no members of the public or media were allowed



Ola Norberg (FOI) and Juan José Navlet Salvatierra (INTA) manned the EXERTER part of the H2020 stand shared with other Horizon 2020 projects. The exhibition was a good opportunity for EXERTER; not only for dissemination of the project; but also to get an overview of state-of-the-art technologies in the area and to establish contacts with manufacturers.

Among the different stands visited where a system for real-time mass people screening and a showcase and demonstration of solutions and technology aimed at improving security in crowded places and infrastructure. The latter was organised by JSaRC-Joint Security and Resilience Centre (<https://www.jsarc.org/>) as a 15 minute tour where different solutions and concepts were presented.

During the three days of the event there were also a variety of scheduled presentations in different areas, e.g. "Protecting Crowded Places".

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no.786805



 For more information visit:
www.exerter-h2020.eu

EXERTER 2nd Year Scenario

In each year of the project, a scenario will be defined to constitute a foundation for the work that EXERTER will undertake. The scenario will be based on past events but can be adapted in order to consider emerging threats and attack strategies which the EXERTER network and stakeholders have identified. The scenarios will be the basis for the compilation of end-user requirements and gaps which will be derived through interviews and workshops with end-users both within the network and externally.

The second year of EXERTER will have its foundation in the 2004 Madrid train bombings (also known in Spain as “11-M”) with the theme “Attacks on public transportation”.

Summary description of the Madrid train bombing

On the Thursday morning of March 11 2004, as thousands of commuters made their way to work, ten bombs packed with nails and dynamite exploded on trains heading towards central Madrid. The blasts killed 191 people and injured approximately 1,800.



One of the train wrecks at Atocha train station. (Photo: Sergio Barrenechea/EPA))



Victims beside one of the trains (Photo: El Pais/Reuters)

There were ten IED explosions in four different trains, three IEDs were found and neutralized by controlled detonation, one IED was defused. The bombs were contained in backpacks and other small bags, such as gym bags, and were initiated using the alarm of a mobile phone which also synchronized the detonation of all the devices.

The bombings were carried out by a group of young men, mostly from northern Africa, who were, according to prosecutors, inspired by a tract on an al-Qaida-affiliated website that called for attacks on Spain. Although the number of people directly or indirectly connected to the network may be larger, there are 27 individuals about whom there is both empirical evidence and legal grounds to implicate them in the preparation or execution of the 11 March attacks.

The aim of the perpetrators were believed to cause the deaths of a large number of people, to in turn provoke a reaction of people a few days before the Spanish general elections.

Scenario

Generalised scenario context

The setting is multiple and coordinated attacks on the public transportation system in a city. The time for the attack (morning with many commuters) is chosen to maximise the number of victims but also to be close to a political event (in the Madrid case an election) to affect the public opinion. The perpetrators are organised in one or more cooperating terrorist cells. For the IEDs, commercial explosives and detonators, triggered by mobile phone alarm functions, are used. The explosives and detonators are “purchased” via criminals who in turn either also have bought it on the black market or stolen it. The IEDs are also equipped with e.g. nails and other metal objects aimed to function as shrapnel to maximise the effect.

Scenario aspects for further study within EXERTER

For EXERTER some examples of highlighted aspects of the attack serve as a starting point and input for the requirement and gap analysis which the project will undertake as well as a review of research initiatives, standardisation/certification and analysis.

- How to control the access to commercial explosives including detonators.
- The multiple targets are commuter trains heading towards a large train station.
- The IEDs are “programmed” to detonate simultaneously at a large, central, train station.
- The time for the attack is chosen to maximise the result in terms of deaths and injured persons.
- The target area is public with no means of entrance security checkpoints.
- The target is crowded with people most of the time and is publicly accessible with no means of entrance security checkpoints
- The detonation takes place in a closed (train doors closed) or nearly closed (train doors open) small and crowded containment
- The mobile phone network collapsed for several hours
- How to prioritise bomb squad/police vs rescue of injured people

EXERTER End User and Expert Community

EXERTER End user and Expert Community (EEC) is important to the network, in order to give valuable input to scenarios, requirements, evaluations and upcoming threats.

It consists of practitioners, academia, research institutes, industry and policy makers.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the EEC, or are aware of someone who would benefit in participating in EXERTER, please contact the Project Coordinator. Alternatively if you only wish to receive regular information and updates on the project you can get this through visiting the website and the project newsletter. Please contact the Project Coordinator to be added to the project mailing list.

For more information visit:
www.exerter-h2020.eu



Networking & Events

EXERTER Events

Annual Workshop 2020 - *Postponed Date to be confirmed*

The 2020 EXERTER Annual Workshop has been postponed due to current COVID-19 pandemic. A new date will be confirmed once agreed.

Other Related Events

ISADE 2020 - *Postponed, new date to be confirmed*

The 13th International Symposium on the Analysis and Detection of Explosives is held in conjunction with the Scientific Workshops annual Trace Explosives Detection Workshop. It is held 19 April 2020 - 24 April 2020 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

www.isade2020.org

Concealed explosives detection workshop (CED) 2020

The workshop will take place in Dublin, Ireland, July 2020
<https://www.concealedexplosives.org/>

BKA International Symposium 2020

The conference takes place in November 2020 in Germany

International Security Expo (ISE) 2020

The workshop will take place in London, 2-3 December 2020
<https://www.internationalsecurityexpo.com/>

4th International Conference CBRNE – Research & Innovation

The conference takes place in Lille, France, 17-20 May, 2021
<https://cbrneconference.fr/>

If your project or organisation wish to promote a future conference, workshop or meeting please contact the EXERTER Project to have it included in future newsletters or the project website.

COVID-19
Disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus

Novel coronavirus
Coronaviruses are viruses that circulate among animals but some of them are also known to affect humans. The 2019 novel coronavirus was identified in China at the end of 2019 and is a new strain that has not previously been seen in humans.

Symptoms

- FEVER
- COUGH
- DIFFICULTY BREATHING
- MUSCLE PAIN
- TIREDFNESS

Prevention

When visiting affected areas

- Avoid contact with sick people
- Wash your hands with soap and water
- If you develop cough, use a medical face mask

Wherever you travel apply general hygiene rules

Transmission
VIA RESPIRATORY DROPLETS
2-14 days estimated incubation period

ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china



For more information visit:
www.exerter-h2020.eu



Facts & Figures

Project duration:

01/06/2019 – 31/05/2023

Budget:

€ 3 498 868.75

Contact

If you wish to find out more, are interested in our End user and Expert community or wish to receive the EXERTER Newsletter with updates of the project, please contact us:

www.exerter-h2020.eu

Project Manager:
Anneli Ehlerding

Email:
anneli.ehlerding@foi.se

Phone: +46-8-5550 3000



Security of Explosives pan-European Specialists Network

Partners

