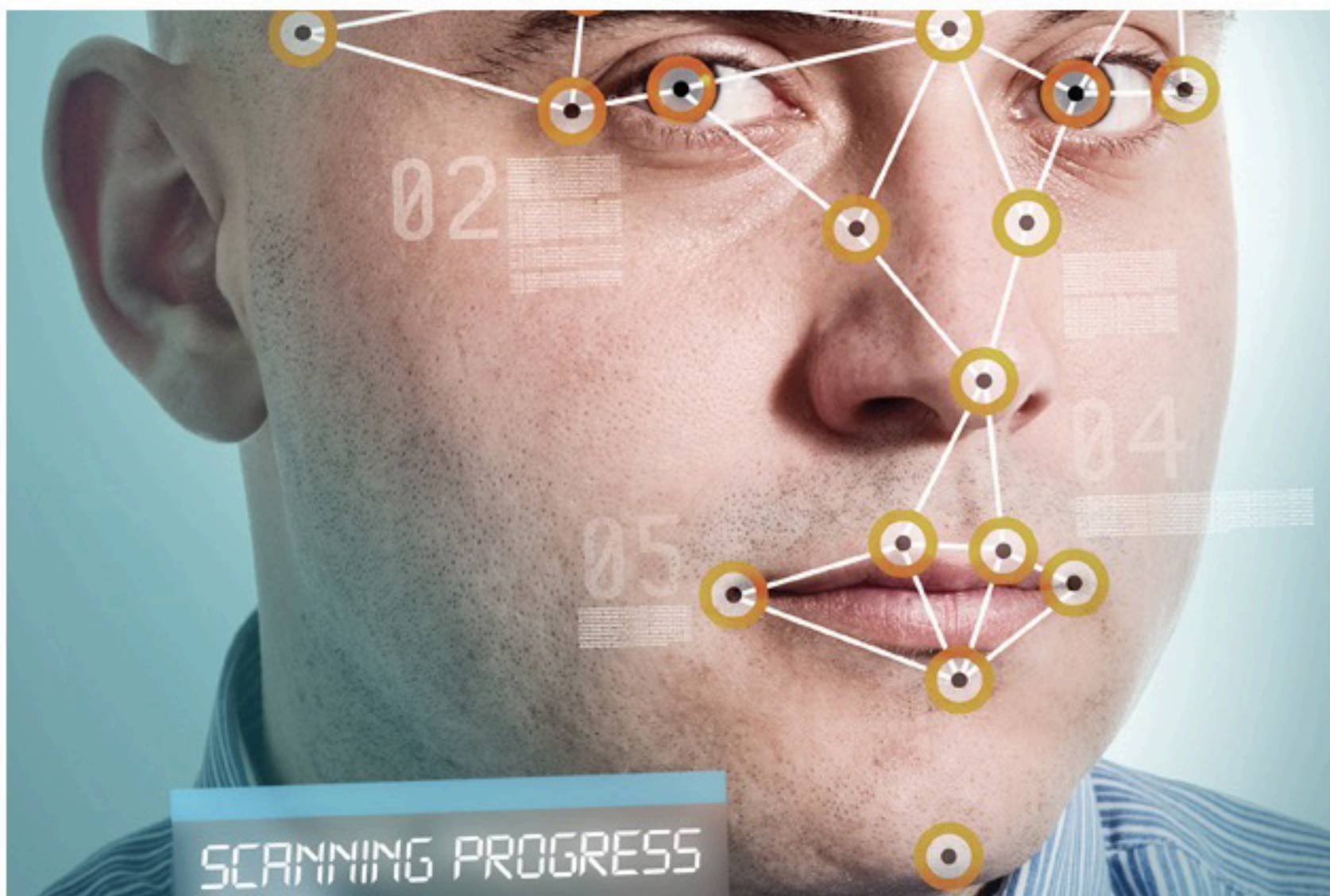# Terror Tech

by Katherine Heires | December 1, 2016

SCANNING PROGRESS

Recent terrorist attacks both in the United States and abroad have underscored the need for tools and strategies that can anticipate and mitigate the dangers of terrorism—whether attacks occur on city streets, in workplaces, at social gatherings, or online in the form of cyberattacks on corporate or government computer networks. As governments and businesses work to provide security protection from terrorists for the benefit of their citizens, employees, representatives and customers, many have turned to technology for assistance.

Major suppliers in this arena include defense contractors such as Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon and Boeing, which sponsor laboratories and incubators that produce technologies that can be applied to the counterterrorism effort. Lockheed Martin's Advanced Technology Laboratories, for example, focuses on cognitive computing, robotics and predictive analytics, while the Department of Homeland Security, the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the CIA's technology investment fund In-Q-Tel, and private venture capital investors are developing tools of their own.

The Department of Homeland Security recently made it easier and faster to fund technology startups by opening a satellite office in Silicon Valley and introducing a new program to fund startups in 30 days, compared to the many months or even years normally required. It aims to support innovation in unmanned aerial systems, counterterrorism, border security and biological threat defense.

Sensing Terrorist Threats

Technology that can be deployed in the field is also being developed. This involves the growing use of both biometric sensors to help determine if someone poses a threat and chemical sensors that can help to identify if someone is transporting explosives or dangerous chemicals.

Converus, for example, has developed eye-tracking technology that measures pupil dilations as small as a tenth of a millimeter to determine whether or not someone is lying. The company has touted its technology as an effective way to help investigate whether any terrorists have infiltrated the ranks of refugees coming into a country. "We could test 10,000 people in 15 working days," CEO Todd Mickelsen said. The company's technology is used within government agencies and to vet law enforcement officers by 230 customers in 22 countries.

This is a condensed version of the article. The full article can be found at: http://www.rmmagazine.com/2016/12/01/terror-tech/