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**Northeastern Students Capture 1st Place and \$10,000 prize
in 6th Annual National Security Innovation Competition**

“Next Generation Millimeter-Wave Body Imaging for Concealed Threat Detection” recognized by the National Homeland Defense Foundation

BOSTON, Massachusetts, April 27, 2012 – Northeastern University’s Awareness and Localization of Explosives-Related Threats (ALERT) center announced today that it has captured the top prize of \$10,000 for their entry in the 2012 National Security Innovation Competition (NSIC) held at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS).

Northeastern’s team consisted of ALERT graduate students Galia Ghazi, Luis Tirado, Kathryn Williams, and Spiros Mantzavinos with Professors Carey Rappaport and José A. Martinez-Lorenzo advising the team. Their project, entitled “Next Generation Millimeter-Wave Body Imaging for Concealed Threat Detection,” beat 39 other schools nationwide for the top prize.

The competition was among ten finalist teams from schools across the country and Canada, including USMA West Point who brought home the second place prize of \$5,000, and the University of Calgary and UCCS, who won 3rd and 4th place, respectively.

The competition was judged by a panel of seven judges from government and industry that included representatives from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the Counter Terrorism Technical Support Office (CTTSO), Boeing Phantom Works, Paladin Capital Group, Popular Science Magazine, and Dorsey & Whitney LLP.

The purpose of the NSIC is to stimulate college student interest in addressing issues of national security by exposing their university-sponsored projects to a broad audience of industry, academic, and government organizations involved in aerospace, defense, security, and first responder activities. Website for the NSIC competition: <http://www.nhdf.org/8-innovation-competition/63-2012-competition/application-and-rules>

For additional information, contact Professor Carey Rappaport at rappapor@ece.neu.edu.

About Northeastern University’s ALERT Center

ALERT is a Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence founded in 2008. The Center is managed by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate Explosives Division, which seeks to protect the nation from explosives-related threats through detection, mitigation, and response. ALERT is co-led by Northeastern University and the University of Rhode Island and is partnered with many industry, academic, and strategic centers, including corporations, universities, and national labs. The Center is based on a culture of collaboration amongst experts and researchers in sensing and imaging to create state-of-the-art technology for explosives characterization and radar sensor systems. The Advanced Imaging Technology Project at Northeastern University began in Fall 2010 and focuses on millimeter-wave and multimodality portal-based and standoff systems for threat detection. The ALERT Center at Northeastern University specializes in radar imaging systems and in electromagnetic computational tools for modeling and imaging.

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