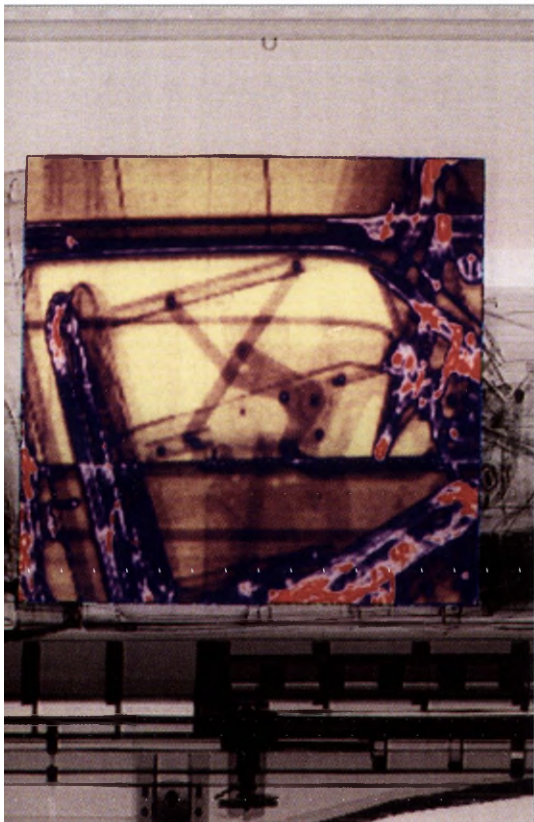


# HIGH-TECH CONTAINER EXAMINATION FACILITY FOR ADELAIDE



Construction has started on Customs Adelaide container examination facility, the fifth such facility opened in Australia since 2002.

It will cost around \$6 million once completed on an 8000sq m site in Veitch Road, Osborne.

The facility will be constructed by South Australian company Candetti Constructions and be fully operational in early 2005.

Regional Director Virginia Lynch said, "Container examination facilities in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Fremantle have scored major successes in detecting illicit drugs and tobacco and liquor imported illegally to evade duty, and I am confident the new Adelaide facility will have similar success against illegal imports

"The Adelaide facility will house a range of sophisticated equipment, including a German-made 2.5 million-electron volt dual-view x-ray system, which will inspect pallets of imported goods.

"Customs experience in other ports indicates this type of technology has an extremely valuable role to play in protecting Australia's borders."

Ms Lynch said the new facility would dramatically increase the number of shipping containers examined by Customs at the Port of Adelaide.

"This technology will enable Customs officers to inspect around 1300 containers each year - representing an eight-fold increase in Customs inspection capability in Adelaide," Ms Lynch said.

"All containers are risk-assessed by Customs before arrival in Australia, and Australia's x-ray inspection rate of highest-risk sea cargo imports means we are a world leader, putting us right up there with the US and ahead of other countries.

"Combined with Customs sophisticated risk-assessment techniques and intelligence operations, the container examination capability helps Customs to ensure the integrity of Australia's borders."

The new facility will also house a monitoring centre for Customs increased waterfront closed-circuit TV network in South Australia which is now based at Customs House at Port Adelaide.