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## New, Explosive-Sniffing Anti-Terror Tool

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(NewsCore) - A tiny explosive-sniffing device, created by a team of American chemists, may be the latest weapon in the war on terrorism, according to research published Friday by the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

The team of chemists has created a postage stamp-sized device that can detect minute amounts of triacetone triperoxide (TATP), an explosive favored by terrorists including the would-be shoe bomber, because it is both easy to make and, until now, very difficult to detect.

The sensor is a handheld device that contains an array of dyes that change color when they come into contact with even trace amounts of certain compounds. It can detect TATP within minutes of coming into contact by creating a certain pattern in the dyes.

Kenneth Suslick of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who led the team, added that the sensor does not confuse TATP with household products such as mouthwash, shampoo, laundry detergent or bleach.

The team is now creating a prototype that could be used to wave over suitcases or attached to metal detectors.

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