



June 18, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

The Honorable Eric Adams
Mayor of New York City
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Governor Hochul, Mayor Adams, and Agency Leaders:

As the leading organization dedicated to the advancement of trusted uncrewed systems, autonomy, and robotics for autonomous and uncrewed systems, the Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) is acutely aware of the risks posed by advanced sensors and other communications components from adversary nations, including and most especially the People's Republic of China (PRC), in uncrewed systems and in our critical infrastructure. AUVSI was deeply troubled to learn that LiDAR sensors manufactured by Livox, a subsidiary of a company with direct ties to the PRC military¹, are in use at John F Kennedy International Airport and at Penn Station; two of the busiest and most critical junctions of U.S. transportation infrastructure. For your reference, please see the photos attached to this letter.

LiDAR systems, including those produced by Livox, play a crucial role in environmental sensing, facility surveillance, infrastructure mapping, and autonomous systems operations. These capabilities make them an attractive but high-risk component when sourced from companies tied to foreign governments. DJI, the parent company of Livox,² is headquartered in the PRC and is subject to national intelligence and military-civil fusion laws which require civilian and commercial entities to support state military and intelligence efforts if compelled or requested to do so.³

The integration of such adversarial systems in U.S. airports or transit hubs poses serious vulnerabilities. LiDAR sensors, by design, collect real-time spatial data that, if compromised, could provide adversaries with sensitive maps of transportation systems, security postures, and crowd flow data. The potential for catastrophic security vulnerabilities, such as embedded firmware backdoors or remote access channels, in sensors manufactured by entities with clear ties to the military-industrial complex of the PRC demands immediate action.

At the federal level, the U.S. Department of Defense has already placed several Chinese LiDAR manufacturers on the Section 1260H list for their ties to China's military-industrial complex; including DJI and Hesai, another Chinese manufacturer of LiDAR sensors with ties to the Chinese military.⁴ In Congress,

¹ <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3180636/dod-releases-list-of-peoples-republic-of-china-prc-military-companies-in-accord/>

² <https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/2020-01-06-dji-livox-lidar.html>

³ <https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/Cybersecurity%20Guidance%20Chinese-Manufactured%20UAS.pdf>

⁴ <https://media.defense.gov/2024/Jan/31/2003384819/-1/-1/0/1260H-LIST.PDF>



pressing concern over the use of PRC-made LiDAR used in American infrastructure has prompted commendable bipartisan efforts to address their use in critical infrastructure.

In light of these concerns, AUVSI respectfully recommends the following actions:

1. Conduct a full audit of sensor and imaging technologies currently in use at JFK International Airport, Penn Station, and other critical infrastructure in the State of New York, specifically identifying any DJI, Livox, or other PRC components.
2. Restrict integration of any foreign-adversary manufactured LiDAR systems within critical networks by isolating them from external communications and disabling over-the-air updates until they can be removed and replaced with U.S. or allied-nation-made LiDAR sensors.
3. Prioritize procurement from U.S.-based or allied-nation LiDAR manufacturers with proven security practices and transparent supply chains.

The presence of potentially compromised sensor technologies in our most vital transportation facilities is not a hypothetical risk – it is a tangible threat to national and economic security. AUVSI urges New York's leaders to act with speed, transparency, and resolve in securing our critical infrastructure.

We welcome the opportunity to support your offices and agencies in evaluating and mitigating these risks and stand ready to assist in developing secure technology procurement and deployment strategies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Robbins", with a stylized, flowing script.

Michael Robbins
President & CEO
AUVSI

CC:

Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D)
Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D)
Rep. Tom Suozzi (NY-3)
Rep. Laura Gillen (NY-4)
Rep. Gregory Meeks (NY-5)
Rep. Grace Meng (NY-6)
Rep. Nydia Velázquez (NY-7)
Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (NY-8)

Rep. Yvette Clarke (NY-9)
Rep. Dan Goldman (NY-10)
Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (NY-11)
Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY-12)
Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)
Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14)
Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15)



Livox LiDAR Sensors in use at Penn Station







Livox LiDAR Sensors in use at JFK International Airport:

