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Hersheypark Delivers Secure, Guest-friendly Entrance Experience with Evolv Technology's Touchless Screening System

Award-winning Regional Family Theme Park is Using Evolv Express™ to Optimize Safety While Ensuring Social Distancing



WALTHAM, Mass., Sept. 08, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) --[Evolv Technology](#) today announced that [Hersheypark®](#) is using Evolv's artificial intelligence (AI)-based, touchless security screening system as part of the much-loved theme park's robust [COVID-19 safety measures](#).

Hersheypark was originally created by legendary businessman and philanthropist Milton S. Hershey more than 110 years ago as leisure grounds for employees of Hershey's Chocolate Factory. Embodying the passion of its namesake, the park is dedicated to its global reputation as a safe, fun family destination offering something entertaining for everyone, regardless of age. Hersheypark welcomes millions of guests annually and was recently honored by the 2020 USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice awards.

Evolv is leading the digital transformation of physical security, one that is touchless and [addresses the 'new normal' threat of pandemic viruses](#) as well as concealed weapons. Using AI software and powerful sensors, [Evolv Express™](#) can screen up to 3,600 people per hour – 10 times faster than legacy approaches such as metal detectors, hand wands and manual inspections. The system enables Hersheypark to facilitate social distancing at its security checkpoints while minimizing person-to-person interaction—requiring no stopping, no emptying of pockets or removing bags. Park guests simply walk through naturally, alleviating

potential long lines at their entrances while greatly reducing contact between guests, employees and security staff. By using Evolv Express, organizations have been able to optimize the performance of their security teams while reducing screening expenses by as much as 70%.

Following state mandates related to the pandemic and an abundance of caution, Hersheypark's opening was delayed until July 3, which marked the debut of the park's completely renovated main entrance designed to provide a stress-free, welcoming experience for guests. A component of a \$150 million, 23-acre "Hershey's Chocolatetown" development and park expansion, the Evolv Express systems are located at Hersheypark's new main entrance.

"Hersheypark prides itself on providing family fun in a clean, green and safe environment where our guests can relax and enjoy the day together," said Garrett Gallia, vice president of communications and corporate relations at Hershey Entertainment and Resorts. "The health and safety of our guests, team members and our community are core to our brand and our most important commitment to all those who choose to honor us with a visit or work as a member of our team. Using Evolv's touchless security screening platform is a perfect example of Hersheypark's forward-thinking application of digital technology. Evolv Express is designed to grow with us to meet the current and future safety needs of our guests and employees, which we view as a significant benefit over traditional solutions."

Response to Evolv Express at Hersheypark has been uniformly positive. Guests welcome how rapid and unobtrusive the process is while making them feel even safer. The park's security professionals emphasize how easy it is to learn and use the system while optimizing their staff resources. With metal detectors, it typically takes the park four to five seconds per person for screening, regularly followed by hand searching of bags or other personal items. With Evolv Express, most guests now stroll through at their normal pace not even realizing the screening process is occurring and then begin their day of fun and relaxation. The park's security team estimates a four-to-five times improvement in the number of guests screened per hour using the system when compared to metal detectors or other dated approaches. The frictionless experience that precludes unnecessary physical contact registers high on the list for everyone.

"We knew our former security screening process would provide challenges in the pandemic environment," said Jason White, managing director of corporate safety and security at Hershey Entertainment and Resorts. "We'd already been evaluating how we could improve on our guest screening process and had piloted Evolv Express last fall because the system could accommodate thousands of people an hour in a frictionless, no-stop flow. As we began formulating the security screening aspect of our pandemic reopening strategy, it was clear that Evolv Express was the best solution that could meet our requirements. Our guests and security staff have been pleasantly surprised at the speed of the touchless screening experience that largely eliminates manual bag checks. The responsive customer support and working relationship we have with the Evolv team is just as phenomenal as their product."

Deployed worldwide, Evolv's touchless security screening systems have been used to screen more than 50 million individuals in an expedient, respectful manner. In addition to Hersheypark, customers include Six Flags Entertainment Corporation, L.L. Bean, Wynn Las Vegas, Georgia Aquarium, Set Jet, Oakland International Airport, two South Carolina school

districts, the Biltmore Estate and hundreds of others.

“Navigating the path to reopening requires an employee-and-customer-first commitment to safety, combined with the vision to embrace new policies, procedures and technologies,” said Evolv Technology Chief Executive Officer Peter George. “Hersheypark embodies that approach and it has been wonderful to see their security leaders like Jason White helping peers at other venues understand what’s required in this new normal. We’re thrilled to be working with such a visionary team.”

About Evolv Technology

Evolv Technology provides touchless security screening systems that ensure safety without sacrificing the visitor experience. The company’s latest product, coupled with a thermal imaging package, spots concealed weapons and potential virus infection threats using advanced digital sensors and artificial intelligence that is incredibly accurate, discreet and delivers significantly more throughput than older technologies. Evolv Express™ has earned industry accolades such as the [2020 Edison Awards™](#) and Campus Security & Life Safety magazine’s [Secure Campus 2020 Awards](#). A member of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, Evolv’s customers include hundreds of outdoor entertainment venues, corporations, airports, cultural landmarks, hospitals, schools, stadiums and large-scale events around the globe. Led by a team of security industry thought leaders with a track record for delivering first-to-market products, the company holds more than 100 patents. Evolv’s investors include Bill Gates, Florida Governor Jeb Bush’s firm, Finback Investment Partners, DCVC (Data Collective), General Catalyst Partners, Lux Capital, SineWave Ventures and STANLEY Ventures. The company’s partners include STANLEY Security and Johnson Controls. For more information, visit <https://evolvtechnology.com>.

A photo accompanying this announcement is available at <https://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/a41e03a9-37af-4061-8fad-440b444e6322>

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