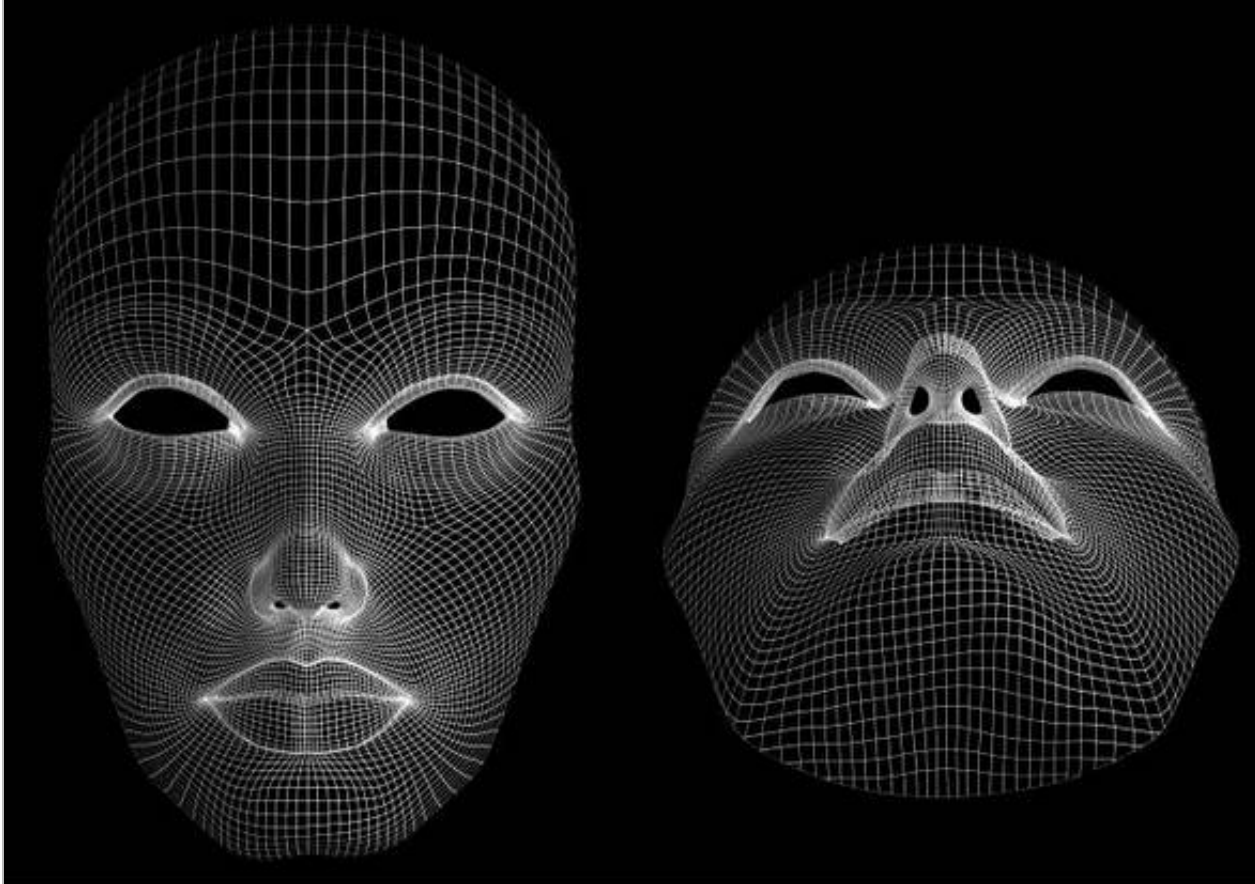


## Custody image database linked with facial recognition system



**Leicestershire Police is using Northgate's Custody Image Management (CIM) system to power its six-month trial of facial recognition software.**

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**By** - [Gary Mason - Police Product Insight](#)

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The CIM database has been built-up over the past five years during which time it has captured over 92,000 images of prisoners brought into custody in the Leicestershire area.

NeoFace, developed by NEC, takes images from CCTV, police body-worn video, digital cameras or even smartphones and is able to detect and analyse a face, even if the lighting, pose and image resolution is of poor quality.

This then attempts to identify potential suspects in Northgate's CIM system, which is providing the underlying image database for the facial recognition software.

Identity unit manager Andy Ramsay said: "Images of people who have been arrested and held in custody held by the CIM solution are of a high quality and are clearer and sharper than those produced by any

other system on the market.

“The fact that when our CIM database was uploaded on to the NeoFace system, not one of the 92,000 images was rejected, is testament to CIM as an effective custody image system.

“With over 90,000 custody images produced by CIM now downloaded on to NEC’s NeoFace system, it takes just seconds for NeoFace to compare someone’s image against our complete database.”

The NeoFace system has been under evaluation in the force since May and around 300 suspects have already been put through the system, with a high success rate of identification.

The system works by comparing dozens of measurements between key facial features. Leicestershire Police has found it impressive, because it provides initial results in just a matter of a few seconds.

The previous computerised system involved manually searching for matches against the 92,000 CIM images, which could take several hours.

While the results can’t be used as evidence in court, the programme does give detectives significant help in developing new lines of enquiry.