



P25 Executive Summary

Report Highlights

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Industry Notes

To better address first responders’ needs for dedicated, interoperable two-way communications equipment, the FCC and other federal government departments have stepped up to promote Project 25 (aka P25 or APCO P25) as the technical solution to our nation’s public safety interoperability problems.

According to the Telecommunications Industry Association’s “Project 25 Overview” published in 2006, the P25 standard is being deployed by vendors in two phases.

P25 Phases

The P25 standard is being deployed by vendors in two phases:¹

Phase I systems provide:

- Standardized service and facility specifications
- Backward compatibility and interoperability with other systems
- An open interface to the RF subsystem to facilitate interlinking of different vendors’ systems

Phase II systems provide:

- Improved spectrum utilization
- Interoperability with legacy equipment
- Interfacing between repeaters and other subsystems
- Roaming capability
- Spectral efficiency/channel reuse

P25’s Role in Homeland Security

Federal government has made two-way radio interoperability a national priority. Legislation provided additional spectrum for first responder communications, with billions of dollars allocated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to promote communications interoperability. The DHS’ Safecom Program recommends that all new radio systems be P25-compatible. Additionally, state and



county homeland security and public safety officials must consider P25 as part of their overall interoperability strategy.

Funds for P25 Equipment

Federal government provides grants specifically for P25 communications, as many agencies would not be able to buy P25 radios without grants. A majority of funds for communications interoperability originate with DHS and are funneled through each state. In the past, grants for communications equipment have been available through a variety of programs such as Assistance to Firefighters Grant, COPS Interoperable Communications Technology Program, and Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP).

In order to be considered for a grant, applicants should be able to convey an understanding of the first responder needs and a clear path toward interoperability and include an operational plan that addresses how the effort will be funded now and in the future. Additional information and guidance on grants and the application process can be found at:

- www.dhs.gov (Department of Homeland Security)
- www.safecomprogram.gov (SAFECOM Program)
- www.grants.gov (Clearinghouse for federal grants)
- www.apcointl.org (APCO International)



F9511 Series Mobile
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The Icom Solution

Icom makes radio equipment that is P25 digital out of the box and world-class analog radio equipment that you may upgrade to P25 digital when your agency is ready. Because every channel in an Icom radio may be programmed for analog or digital, your agency may be able to take advantage of P25 compliance while retaining your legacy analog system.