DHS Science and Technology Directorate

Project 25 Compliance Assessment Program

Why it's Needed

To successfully respond to both day-to-day and large-scale incidents, first responders must be able to communicate regardless of equipment make or model. Today, this can be challenging because the communications equipment suppliers produce often use different technical approaches that leave their products incompatible. To address this challenge, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) partnered with the Department of Commerce Public Safety Communications Research program to establish the Project 25 Compliance Assessment Program (P25 CAP). Through an open standards testing process, the P25 CAP provides responders the confidence that the communications equipment they buy will be interoperable, regardless of supplier.

How it Works

The P25 CAP tests communications equipment that claims to be compliant with P25 standards to ensure the equipment can work together regardless of supplier. The P25 CAP is a voluntary program that allows suppliers to formally demonstrate their products' compliance to P25 standards. Compliance testing is a formal, independent process that concludes with official summary test reports and suppliers' declaration of compliance documents.

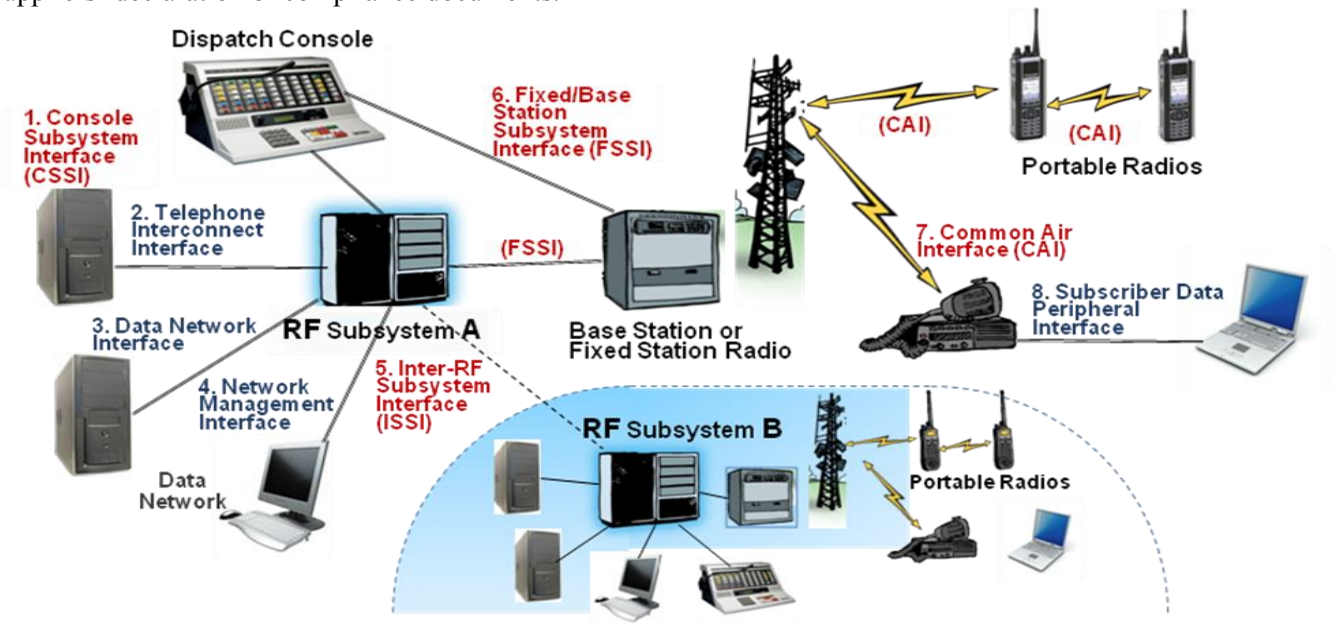
S&T makes test results available to the first response community on the FirstResponder.gov website at http://www.firstresponder.gov/P25CAP.

The Value

The P25 CAP helps first responders make purchasing decisions because it provides a verifiable way to know that the equipment they purchase is indeed P25 compliant and therefore provides enhanced interoperability. In addition, by encouraging the purchase of P25 CAP-compliant communications equipment in grant guidance, P25 CAP is helping to ensure federal grant funds are used to purchase interoperable solutions for local, tribal, and state first responders. Ultimately, this ensures interoperability and reduces waste and poor investments in untested equipment.

Long-Term Goals

- Assist emergency response officials in making informed purchasing decisions.
- Provide suppliers with a method of testing their equipment for P25 compliance.
- Support the migration of communications systems to standards-based infrastructure.



P25 standards ensure data can be passed across all levels of digital radio interfaces, as illustrated above.

Homeland Security
Science and Technology

To learn more about P25 CAP, contact SandTFRG@dhs.gov

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