

## Missouri FY 10 Interoperable Grant Guideline Definition and Examples of Eligible Procurement

Missouri grant guidelines for interoperable communications equipment are changing for fiscal year 2010. Based on recommendations approved by the Governors Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) in January, 2010 the following recommendations are to be utilized when utilizing grant funding to procure interoperable communications equipment:

Mobile radios procured must be upgradeable to operate in the Project 25 trunked mode. The radio can be purchased initially with the ability to operate in the Project 25 trunked mode but at a minimum it must be a model which is capable of being upgraded at some point in the future. The ability for the radio to operate in the project 25 trunked mode is to ensure that agencies purchasing radios will be able to communicate via the State of Missouri's Statewide Interoperable Network (MOSWIN), an important aspect of the State of Missouri's overall interoperable vision. The radio network will provide "mobile radio coverage" so mobile radios purchased with FY10 grant funding should be capable of operating on the network.

Starting in 2010, the federal government is requiring all Project 25 equipment sold (including base stations, repeaters, portable and mobile radios) to comply with Project 25 standards testing and to post the results of the tests, called Standard Declaration of Compliance (SDOC's), of their specific models on the following website <https://www.rkb.us/>. If the particular model requested does not have a SDOC for that Project 25 model radio posted on the website, it cannot be purchased with grant funding. Contact Stephen Devine, Interoperability Program Manager with the Missouri Department of Public Safety, for further information or with questions on the <https://www.RKB.us> website or Project 25 SDOC's.

Consistent with additional federal guidelines, non-Project 25 equipment can be utilized if the acquisition does not inhibit an agencies access to interoperability. In Missouri, "being interoperable" within the State's interoperable vision has been defined in its Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) as an agency being able to communicate with the Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network, which to achieve as indicated above requires a Project 25 trunked mobile radio (45 watts). Agencies can purchase non-Project 25 equipment if they are able to communicate on the statewide network. In FY 10 grant guidelines, agencies wishing to purchase non-Project 25 equipment will be required to provide a short narrative as to how they can communicate on the statewide interoperability network. The narrative showing how an agency can access the statewide interoperability network MUST accompany the request to purchase non-Project 25 equipment or it will be returned as outside the current grant parameters.

- Some examples of what solutions agencies can state their interoperable capabilities resulting from and define their access to the statewide interoperability network , thereby stating their interoperable capabilities and being eligible to acquire non-Project 25 equipment, are:
- An agency can place a Project 25 Trunked Mobile Radio (Control Station) that has access to the statewide interoperability network in a PSAP or other fixed facility. This would make the applicant eligible for non-Project 25 portable, base and repeater equipment since they are able to access the statewide interoperability network through their PSAP.
- An agency can place a Project 25 Trunked Mobile Radio that has access to the statewide interoperability network in a piece of bridging equipment they utilize (ACU-1000 or other bridging device) that allows users to “bridge” from their internal agency channels to access the P 25 trunked mobile radio and access the statewide network. In most configurations, the trunked radio attached to the bridging device will have to have the “talk groups” of the mobile radio changed manually so the location of the device and physical access to the radio are important elements of this particular configuration. This would make the applicant eligible for non-Project 25 portable, base and repeater equipment since they are able to access the statewide interoperability network through their bridging device.
- An agency can place a Project 25 Trunked Mobile Radio that has access to the statewide interoperability network on a piece of response equipment (fire truck) to be able to access the statewide network. This would make the applicant eligible for non-Project 25 portable, base and repeater equipment since they are able to access the statewide interoperability network through their equipment when deployed.

What is important is to note that the request for Non-Project 25 portable radios, base radios and repeaters can be approved only when an agency has stated they can interact with and communicate on the statewide interoperability network. The paragraph that outlines this capability should be the first part of their grant request.

The purchase of mobile radios, based on homeland security grant requirements, must adhere to the Governors Homeland Security Advisory Council recommendations that require any mobile radios be able to be upgraded to operate in the Project 25 trunked mode. Appendix A contains the grant language utilize for the FY10 State of Missouri grant guidelines. Should any additional questions arise, contact Missouri Department of Public Safety Interoperability Program Manager Stephen Devine at 573-522-2382 or [stephen.devine@dps.mo.gov](mailto:stephen.devine@dps.mo.gov)

## Appendix A

### Equipment Standards

When procuring equipment for communications systems, whether voice or data, a standards based approach must be used to begin migration to multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary interoperability. The applicable requirements for land mobile radio (LMR) systems, Voice over IP (VoIP) systems and data-related information sharing systems are described below. Applicants must demonstrate how their procurements will comply with these requirements as applicable.

#### ***Land Mobile Radio Systems***

All new digital voice systems must be compliant with the Project 25 (P25) suite of standards. This requirement is intended for government-owned or -leased digital land mobile public safety radio equipment. This requirement does not apply to commercial voice services that offer other types of voice interoperability solutions.

To ensure encrypted interoperability, the P25 suite of standards references the use of Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) in the *Project 25 Block Encryption Protocol, ANSI/TIA-102.AAD*. Entities pursuing encrypted communications capabilities must be compliant with the P25 Block Encryption Protocol.

This guidance does not preclude funding for non-P25 equipment when there are compelling reasons for using other solutions. Funding requests by agencies to replace or add radio equipment to an existing non-P25 system (such as procuring new portables for an existing analog system) will be considered if there is an explanation for how such equipment will improve interoperability or support eventual migration to interoperable systems. Absent these compelling reasons, P25 equipment will be required for LMR systems to which the standard's apply.

*“Interoperability”, as listed in the above SAFECOM grant guidance, is defined in Missouri by the Missouri Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The Missouri SCIP identifies the states interoperable vision in the development of a statewide VHF Project 25 Trunked interoperability network. Subsequently, improving interoperability in Missouri is defined by an agency’s ability to introduce or enhance access to the Missouri statewide interoperability network with a Mobile Project 25 VHF Trunked Radio.*

*Infrastructure Equipment: Any piece of infrastructure equipment (including but not limited to base stations, receivers, repeaters, etc.) requested to be purchased must have that request accompanied by an Executive Summary that includes an Operation and Maintenance Plan which will show how the requested equipment will be implemented and maintained along with an explanation as to how that equipment is anticipated to operate and contributes to enhancing the agency’s degree of interoperability while also enabling connection/access to the Statewide VHF P 25 Radio Interoperability Network.*

When purchasing Project 25 LMR equipment/systems, grantees will, at a minimum, ensure the vendor has participated in equipment testing consistent with the Project 25 Compliance

Assessment Program (P25 CAP). Where such equipment is covered in the *Project 25 Compliance Assessment Program Requirements*<sup>6</sup> document, it must be tested in accordance with applicable standards and policies of the P25 CAP, and evidence of this testing must be documented through Supplier's Declarations of Compliance and Summary Test Reports that have been posted to <http://www.rkb.us>.

Additionally, when P25 LMR equipment/systems are purchased with a non-standard, proprietary feature/capability and a comparable feature/capability is part of the standard, the P25 LMR equipment/systems must include the standards-based feature/capability. For assistance in determining eligible communications equipment purchases under this section, and in determining when justification material is required, grantees can access web based technical assistance tools at:

[http://www.pscr.gov/outreach/safecom/grant\\_guidance/grant\\_charts.php](http://www.pscr.gov/outreach/safecom/grant_guidance/grant_charts.php)

The *OIC Wireless Communications Grant Guidance Tool* will also give users access to detailed information that will be helpful in selecting and procuring Project 25 equipment. In addition, this tool offers links to documents available under the P25 CAP.

### ***Voice-over-Internet Protocol Systems***

When purchasing bridging/gateway devices that have a VoIP capability to provide connectivity between LMR systems, those devices must at a minimum, implement either the Bridging Systems Interface (BSI) specification or the P25 Inter RF Sub-System Interface (ISSI) as a part of their VoIP capability.

### ***Data-Related Information Sharing Systems***

Grant funded systems, developmental activities or services related to emergency response information sharing should comply with the OASIS Emergency Data eXchange Language (EDXL) suite of data messaging standards.

Compliance should include the following OASIS EDXL standards:

- Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), version 1.1 or latest version
- Distribution Element (DE), version 1.0 or latest version
- Hospital Availability Exchange (HAVE), version 1.0 or latest version
- Resource Messaging (RM) standards, version 1.0 or latest version

More information on each of these standards and its applicability can be found at: <http://www.oasis-open.org>.

This guidance does not preclude funding of non-OASIS EDXL-compliant systems when there are compelling reasons for using other solutions. Absent such compelling reasons, the OASIS EDXL standards identified above are the preferred standards.

### **SAFECOM Guidance for Federal Grant Programs**

Grant funded systems, developmental activities, or services related to emergency response information sharing should also leverage the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) for data component or element standards. More information on NIEM can be found at: [www.niem.gov](http://www.niem.gov).

### ***National Information Exchange Model Supporting Technology Evaluation Program***

Grant funded systems, developmental activities or services related to emergency response information sharing should also comply with the NIMS Supporting Technology Evaluation Program (STEP). The NIMS STEP provides objective evaluations of commercial software and hardware products, and reports on product conformity to standards and NIMS guidelines. Findings from evaluations may be accessed through the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) website to assist grantees in making purchases. More information on the NIMS STEP can be found at: <https://www.nimsstep.or>