

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of:	)	
	)	
Proposed Amendments to the Service Rules	)	PS Docket No. 13-87
Governing Public Safety Narrowband	)	
Operations in the 769-775/799-805 MHz	)	
Bands	)	
	)	

**REPLY COMMENTS OF  
THE NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL**

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) submits these Replies in response to the Petition for Reconsideration submitted by the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) concerning the Project 25 Compliance Assessment Program certification, and to subsequent Comments submitted in response to the TIA Petition by Motorola Solutions, Inc.<sup>1</sup> As addressed in these Replies, NPSTC strongly supports the P25 CAP program and recommends that P25 radios be certified to the P25 standard under the provisions of the CAP program prior to sale and delivery from manufacturers to distributors or to public safety entities.

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<sup>1</sup> Petition for Reconsideration by the Telecommunications Industry Association, PS Docket 13-87, January 2, 2015 and Comments of Motorola Solutions, Inc., PS Docket No. 13-87, February 11, 2015.

## **The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council**

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council is a federation of public safety organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership. NPSTC pursues the role of resource and advocate for public safety organizations in the United States on matters relating to public safety telecommunications. NPSTC has promoted implementation of the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) and the 700 MHz Public Safety National Coordination Committee (NCC) recommendations. NPSTC explores technologies and public policy involving public safety telecommunications, analyzes the ramifications of particular issues and submits comments to governmental bodies with the objective of furthering public safety telecommunications worldwide. NPSTC serves as a standing forum for the exchange of ideas and information for effective public safety telecommunications.

The following 16 organizations participate in NPSTC:

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- American Radio Relay League
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International
- Forestry Conservation Communications Association
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- International Association of Emergency Managers
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Municipal Signal Association
- National Association of State Chief Information Officers
- National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
- National Association of State Foresters
- National Association of State Technology Directors
- National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators
- National Emergency Number Association
- National Sheriffs' Association

Several federal agencies are liaison members of NPSTC. These include the Department of Homeland Security (the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Office of Emergency Communications, the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility, and the SAFECOM Program); Department of Commerce (National Telecommunications and Information Administration); Department of the Interior; and the Department of Justice (National Institute of Justice, CommTech Program). In addition, Public Safety Europe is also a liaison member. NPSTC has relationships with associate members, the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) and the Utilities Telecom Council (UTC), and affiliate members: the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS), Open Mobile Alliance (OMA), Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), and TETRA Critical Communications Association (TCCA).

### **NPSTC Replies**

#### 1. Background

In its Report and Order which modifies a number of rules related to the public safety 700 MHz narrowband spectrum (769-775/799-805 MHz), the Commission addressed the Project 25 Compliance Assessment Program (P25 CAP).<sup>2</sup> In that decision, the Commission notes that Section 90.548 of the rules requires any radio designed to operate on the 700 MHz narrowband interoperability channels to conform to the P25 technical standards. The Report and Order also indicates that the P25 CAP was established to ensure that communications equipment conforms to P25 standards and is interoperable across vendors.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Report and Order, PS Docket No. 13-87, released October 24, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Report and Order at page 21.

The Commission had previously proposed to require all vendors of 700 MHz narrowband equipment capable of operating on the interoperability channels to obtain P25 CAP certification prior to marketing or sale of such equipment. However, in response to concerns raised by equipment manufacturers in the proceeding, the Commission decided instead to encourage rather than mandate P25 CAP certification. The rules adopted provide a presumption that a manufacturer that submits its equipment for CAP certification is compliant with the requirements of Section 90.548 of the rules.

The Telecommunication Industry Association (TIA) submitted a Petition for Reconsideration which seeks modification of the Commission decision. In its Petition, the TIA recognizes the benefits of compliance to the P25 standards:

Because of these standards, radios from different jurisdictions and suppliers can talk to one another using a Project 25 standard common (over the) air interface (CAI) as well as a variety of standardized system interfaces. The communications interoperability provided by Project 25 improves public safety for all citizens by allowing coordinated multi-agency response and mutual aid during natural disasters, terrorist incidents, civil unrest, and mass public gatherings.<sup>4</sup>

However, even while recognizing the benefits of P25, TIA asks that the Commission “not condition the completion of the CAP assessment as a critical step in the device approval process ahead of submission to the FCC for type-acceptance.”<sup>5</sup> TIA further states:

...the actual Project 25 CAP compliant functionality for device, particularly an entirely new device implementation, may not happen until many months after FCC Type Approval could be completed. Because CAP requires testing with other similar manufacturer’s products to demonstrate compliance, interoperability testing cannot realistically be completed for “first to market” products in the absence of competing products.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> TIA Petition at page 4.

<sup>5</sup> TIA Petition at page 3.

<sup>6</sup> TIA Petition at page 7.

TIA also states that the CAP Governing Board has not met in over a year and is currently not recognizing new laboratories.<sup>7</sup>

Motorola Solutions, Inc. submitted Comments supporting the TIA Petition. Motorola Solutions also addresses the timing issues raised by TIA and asks that the Commission strike the language added in the Report and Order tying the P25 CAP program to FCC equipment certification (type-acceptance).<sup>8</sup>

## 2. NPSTC Position

NPSTC strongly supports both the P25 standard and the P25 CAP certification program. From a NPSTC perspective, 700 MHz P25 products sold and delivered should be required to meet the P25 CAP certification. As noted in the TIA Petition, the P25 standard has provided significant improvements in interoperability. However, without independent certification that 700 MHz P25 products actually meet the P25 standard and can interoperate with other P25 devices, communications interoperability could suffer. That of course would be detrimental to public safety and the public it strives to protect and serve.

To the extent that the timing of FCC equipment type-acceptance is incompatible with the P25 CAP certification requirements as TIA and Motorola Solutions indicates, NPSTC recommends the Commission modify the rules so that any radio designed to operate on the 700 MHz narrowband interoperability channels be mandated to meet CAP compliance certification prior to sale and delivery from manufacturers to distributors or to public safety entities.

It is important that the benefits of the P25 standard and the CAP Program certification be ensured for public safety entities spending significant taxpayer funds to deploy interoperable

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<sup>7</sup> TIA Petition at Page 5.

<sup>8</sup> Comments of Motorola Solutions, Inc. at page 6.

communications equipment. To the extent that the P25 CAP program suffers from the challenges set forth in the TIA petition, NPSTC also urges that those shortcomings be addressed, and in fact understands that the CAP Governing Board is being reinstated.

**Conclusion**

NPSTC strongly supports the P25 standard and the P25 CAP certification program. From a public safety perspective, both the standard and independent certification that equipment meets the standard, are extremely important tools in improving public safety interoperability. NPSTC supports the rule modifications as adopted in the Report and order issued October 24, 2015. However, should the Commission decide to disassociate the P25 CAP program certification from the type-acceptance process, NPSTC recommends the Commission adopt a rule that mandates P25 CAP compliance prior to equipment sale and delivery from manufacturers to distributors or public safety entities.

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