

Joint SAFECOM-National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC)
 Project 25 (P25) User Needs Working Group (UNWG)

Primary Goal

The P25 UNWG is an advisory group to the P25 Steering Committee and subordinate to the Joint SAFECOM/NCSWIC Technology Policy Committee. This group provides a forum for education, discussion, and input from a broad range of public safety users and subject matter experts on issues related to the Project 25 Suite of Standards. **Project 25 is the only known user-driven emergency communications standards process in the U.S.** and the UNWG provides the forum for the public safety community to provide input to the standards and compliance/interoperability testing requirements. The standards are constantly being enhanced and refined as new requirements are identified.

- Publishing the *Land Mobile Radio (LMR)/Long Term Evolution (LTE) Integration: Best Practices*
- Drafting the *Global Positioning System (GPS) for Public Safety* Addressing needs in the Inter-RF Subsystem Interface (ISSI)/Console Subsystem Interface (CSSI) and Link Layer Security

The Joint SAFECOM/NCSWIC P25 UNWG has two co-chairs, one a member of NCSWIC and the other a member of SAFECOM. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) provides support for the SAFECOM and NCSWIC advisory groups and their respective committees, working groups, and task forces, including the P25 Compliance Assessment Program Task Force. The P25 UNWG works in coordination with the Joint Technology Policy Committee and the P25 Steering Committee to focus on multiple P25-related efforts. The co-chairs assign a committee member to serve as a liaison to the P25 Steering Committee, providing valuable coordination and information sharing between the groups.

Products and Resources

The P25 UNWG develops written products and tools to educate users and manufacturers on emerging technologies, best practices, LMR features and functions, and recommendations for new or updated P25 standards. In 2022, the P25 UNWG is publishing the *LMR/LTE Integration: Best Practices* white paper to provide LMR/LTE use cases and best practices. The P25 UNWG is also developing the *GPS for Public Safety: Best Practices* white paper to provide an overview of how public safety is integrating GPS into their LMR systems. Both white papers were created based on interviews and input received from LMR system managers and subject matter experts in the public safety community. The working group also receives input from public safety users nationwide on new and evolving user requirements, then identifies and develops standards recommendations based on those needs. The P25 UNWG’s next focus is developing recommendations for updates to the P25 ISSI and CSSI standards to improve interoperability.

Membership and Engagement

The working group hosts at least four conference calls annually, and two in-person meetings per year, providing members with opportunities to discuss critical P25 issues. The UNWG has a diverse membership of public safety and emergency communications stakeholders and subject matter experts, including representatives from SAFECOM, NCSWIC, state and local government agencies, and public and private organizations.

