

Report to the Iowa Legislature
on the Status of the
Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board
(ISICSB)
Calendar Year 2015

Overview

During the first session of the 82nd General Assembly, the Iowa Legislature established Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System Board (ISICSB). 2007 Iowa Acts, House File 353, created Iowa Code Section 80.28, which addresses the membership of the Board, with Section 80.29 identifying its duties, as follows:

“A statewide interoperable communications system board is established, under the joint purview of the department and the state department of transportation. The board shall develop, implement, and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local level, and coordinate with similar efforts at the federal level, with the ultimate objective of developing and overseeing the operation of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system. For the purposes of this section and section 80.29, “interoperability” means the ability of public safety and public services personnel to communicate and to share data on an immediate basis, on demand, when needed, and when authorized.”

The ISICSB has been in existence for eight years, progressively improving policy and procedures for Iowa interoperability and advancing stakeholder involvement in decision making. 2015 -2017 Chair and Vice-Chair are as follows:

Chair: Thomas Lampe, Department of Public Safety
(515) 725-6113, lampe@dps.state.ia.us
Vice-Chair: Jason Leonard, Waverly Police Department
(319) 352-5400), jasonl@ci.waverly.ia.us

December 2015 ISICSB Members

Local Representatives

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>City</u>
Kerry Devine	Municipal Police Department	Waterloo P.D.
Jason Leonard	Municipal Police Department	Waverly P.D.
Ellen Hagen	Fire Department (Volunteer)	Jewell F.D.
Deb Krebill	Fire Department (Career)	Marion F.D.
Michael Ehret	Communication Center Manager	Dickinson County
Andy Buffington	Communication Center Manager	Winnebago Co.
Ted Kamatchus	County Sheriff	Marshall County
Michael Kasper	County Sheriff	Linn County
Kelly Groskurth	Member-at-Large	City Clerk, Underwood
Vacant	Emergency Management	
Linda Frederiksen	Emergency Medical Services	Scott County

State Agency Representatives

John Benson	Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Tom Boeckmann	Department of Public Health
Thomas Lampe	Department of Public Safety
Carole Lund-Smith	Iowa Law Enforcement Academy
Jeffrey Swearngin	Department of Natural Resources
Patrick Updike	Department of Corrections
Robert von Wolfradt	Chief Information Officer
Robert Younie	Department of Transportation

Legislative Ex-Officio Members

Senator Chris Brase
Senator Randy Feenstra
Representative Bob Kressig
Representative Steven Holt

Communications Interoperability Efforts

The ISICSB holds monthly public meetings, on the second Wednesday of the month. The ISICSB posts information on a web site at www.isicsb.iowa.gov.

During 2015, ISICSB addressed legislative mandates, as contained in Iowa Code 80.29, as follows:

1. Implement and maintain organizational and operational elements of the board, including staffing and program activity.

- From its inception in 2007 through 2015, ISICSB relies on Federal Interoperability Grants/Interoperability State Funding appropriations to support Board activities.
 - For the first time in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, state funding was appropriated to ISICSB.
 - Each Board member has a full-time professional position and performs Board duties on volunteer a part-time basis.
 - As part of a national interoperability initiative, circa 2008 each state was to establish a Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) position. This position is also consistent with this code of Iowa mandated element.
 - Craig Allen is Iowa's SWIC since April 2014.
 - SWIC position is one of two employees of this Board.
 - In 2010 the Board hired their first SWIC. This SWIC position has been critical to improving interoperability in Iowa, addressing these legislative mandates, and the resulting accomplishments of the Board.
 - In 2014 the Board hired an Administrative Assistant. This position is funded by SLIGP grant funds. The position is limited to only FIRSTNET broadband duties.
 - Until 2014, SWIC salary was paid for by Federal Interoperability grants.
 - During 2015, State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) pay half the SWIC's salary and expenses. This grant program creates a national public safety broadband network (NPSBN),
 - In 2012, Congress passed the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). A state and local broadband planning grant program was included.
 - In 2013, SLIGP grant became available. Iowa applied for this grant, and in August 2013 was awarded funds partially supporting the SWIC's salary for a three (3) year period with the restriction that this grant can only be used for broadband planning activities, and not a SWIC's overall interoperability duties.
 - Therefore, it is essential that annualized legislative funding continue to be available to pay half of the SWIC's salary to continue to meet Iowa's various and unique interoperability needs.

- NPSBN funds are used specifically to educate Iowa’s public safety communities about this new network, and solicit feedback from that community about their broadband communications needs.
 - To plan a statewide build-out, ISICSB will use a county by county effort holding coordination meetings to share information and collect network requirements to meet Iowa Public safety wireless broadband needs.
 - To achieve this county-by-county outreach effort ISICSB contracted with (the low bidder) Connect Iowa for services to develop and present in each county. Key stakeholders in each county were peer selected to serve on 1 of 6, Regional Interoperability Committees (RICs) reporting to ISICSB directly on their public safety wireless broadband needs, including, coverage, availability, reliability, security and resiliency of a network.
 - As of December 2015, 99 of Iowa’s 99 counties have participated in at least one outreach presentation.
- In addition, the ISICSB expanded their FirstNet Broadband Sub-Committee to address planning, technology and public private partnership issues of NPSBN in Iowa.
 - This Sub Committee is co-chaired by Ric Lumbard Executive Director of Iowa Communications network (ICN), and Chief Information Officer (CIO) Bob von Wolfradt. SWIC Allen and two ISICSB Board members, and other state and local subject matter experts (SMEs) round out this committee. FirstNet Broadband Sub committee meets on a regular basis to become more informed about broadband technology, Iowa public safety needs, NPSBN public safety grade requirements, and identify potential private companies willing to engage in a public safety wireless broadband network.
 - NSPBN directed each state to identify a state point of contact (SPOC) for NPSBN interactions. Governor Branstad selected ISICSB Chair Thomas Lampe as the SPOC for NPSBN planning and implementation in Iowa. Chair Lampe continues as SPOC in 2015.
 - On November 18, 2014, Iowa became the 8th state to hold an Initial Consultation with seven senior representatives of FirstNet. Over 50 Iowa State and local representatives met to begin the multiphase process of determining if Iowa wishes to Opt-in or Opt-out of building NPSBN in conjunction with FirstNet, or if Iowa wishes to shoulder the expense to build out their portion of a NPSBN alone.
 - FirstNet scheduled a meeting with Governor Branstad in December 3, 2015 to explain legal interpretations of enabling legislation regarding states options in selecting whether to Opt In or Opt Out of partnering with FirstNet to build out Iowa’s portion of the National Public Safety Broadband Network, SPOC Lampe and SWIC Allen also attended.
- The Governance Committee, in conjunction with other Board committees, will continue to steer activities with local public safety community partners/users in a collaborative way to establish regional governance presence throughout Iowa.
- The Governance Committee anticipates continue leveraging local governance public safety community partners/users for knowledge and advice in 2016, and beyond as the

Board works through the task of developing/implementing a new Statewide Interoperable 700 MHz Land Mobile Radio platform in Iowa.

- The Governance Committee continues to work with local public safety community partners/users to establish effective/appropriate governance practices and relationships creating a foundation for successfully operating both a Public Safety Land Mobile Radio Network and Iowa's portion of a National Public Safety Broadband Network.

2. *Review and monitor communications interoperability performance and service levels on behalf of Agencies.*

- The ISICSB and E911 Council coordinated their activities and scheduled meetings at the same locations.
- In 2015, ISICSB released a series of Policy Statements (attached) consistent with the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) and made efforts to provide clarifying radio channels naming or re-naming all bands of public safety interoperability channels.
 - ISICSB management monitored public safety interoperability responses in Iowa.
 - There were incidents in Iowa where the response involved a number of agencies responding and interoperability issues identified.
 - Board management contacted those involved in the response, examined interoperability issues, and offered solutions that could solve interoperability communication issues that evolved from the incident. Some of the findings were:
 - Lack of training field personnel on how interoperability channels work,
 - Improperly labeled radio channels, and
 - Other available options to achieve interoperability with the equipment they use on a day-to-day basis.
 - Local or county policies in some instances were prohibiting responders from using interoperability channels because of their lack of updating the policy to reflect newer technology and the availability of more channels.
 - In some cases, communication centers were only broadcasting on certain channels that other agencies could not monitor.
 - Clearly, interoperability is still an issue in Iowa preventing coordinating communications much of the time in the incidents examined.
 - Iowa does not yet have a statewide communication system, like our adjacent states. However, Iowa awarded to Motorola Solutions for a new LMR system during 2015.
 - Absent a completed statewide interoperable system, it is very difficult to solve communication issues that counties and cities have in the State, the Board will continue to explore viable options and additional initiatives to improve interoperability in the coming year.

- During 2015, ISICSB conducted a series of regional training workshops designed to improve interoperability, focusing on delivery of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) COML (Communications Leader) and COMT (Communications Technical).
- During 2015, one ISICSB member attended an out of state school to become certified as a "trainer" in COMU (Communications Unit), to enhance Iowa's cadre of trained COMT/COML. ISICSB scheduled an ISICSB committee member to attend a school to become certified as "trainer" in COML to further enhance Iowa's cadre of COML.
- The ISICSB added a conference line, which is open for all board meetings with the intent of gaining more one-on-one local input from a broader range of local users on interoperability issues.

3. *Establish, monitor, and maintain appropriate policies and protocols to ensure that interoperable communications systems function properly.*

- The ISICSB is promoting the national policy of using Plain Language in radio communications throughout Iowa.
 - The ISICSB approved a policy in 2014 adopting the use of a minimum number of national interoperable channels in each radio as a statewide standard in January 1, 2014, and adopted the use of the national standard channel nomenclature (naming channels with standardized national names).
 - The ISICSB developed and published 'quick' one page templates and instructions for ease of use and programming channels into radio equipment.
 - However, because ISICSB lacks enforcement authority of any policy this limits achievement of interoperability as some county and local governments continue past practices using legacy channel naming which is inconsistent with new federal guidance, thereby creating user confusion and hindering interoperability best practices. With Iowa's local control focus and county patchwork of "silo" radio systems operating in different radio frequencies, statewide interoperability policies and protocols are challenging to establish. With disparate systems, what works for one county may not work for another however a statewide platform eliminates this confusion since all users can be on a common frequency and system.
- ISICSB passed a number of policy statements beginning in July 2014. After working closely with Attorney General Staff on a process for developing, prominently posting for on ISICSB website to incentivize public comment, Board discussion and if appropriate voting to determine if a policy statement represented a best practice for Iowa public safety stakeholders, lastly all policy statements are posted on ISICSB website in order of chronological order.
 - ***Policy statements passed in 2014 are:***
 - **2014-1** *Support of Project 25 Standard.*
 - **2014-2** *Endorsement of Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) Trailers.*
 - **2014-3** *Support of No Encryption on Interoperability Channels.*
 - **2014-4** *Endorsement of Credentialing Process of COML/COMT.*
 - ***Policy statements passed in 2015 are:***
 - **2015-01** *Endorsement for support for procurement and state funding of P-25 700 MHz LMR platform* (which also created a standing committee User

Group Committee (UGC) charged with managing collaboration on platform usage).

- **2015-02** *Supporting government control of interoperability frequencies and channels.*
- **2015-03** *Defining Public Safety Grade.*
- **2015-04** *Iowa Statewide Interoperability Channels.*
- **2015-05** *AES 256 Encryption SLN TEK KID.*

Additional policy statements are in various degrees of completion and positing for interested stakeholders.

4. *Allocate and oversee state appropriations or other funding received for interoperable Communications.*

- The legislation creating ISICSB did not contain any state appropriations for its day-to-day operation or grant acquisition matching funds. From Fiscal Years (FYs) 2008-2012, the only funding received by the Board came from Federal Interoperable Communications Grants, which have been substantially reduced or eliminated by the Federal Government. The last available Federal Grant expired in May, 2013. A portion of that grant was earmarked to fund the SWIC's salary, Board operations, and stakeholder outreach and training efforts, and radio programming with national interoperable channels to improve interoperability.
 - The ISICSB managed its funds very conservatively and were informed that it would be approved to continue to use those funds for one more year. However, with the Federal sequestration, the grant extension was denied and those budgeted projects were left without that funding.
- In August, 2013, the ISICSB, on behalf of the State of Iowa, received a \$1.6 Million Federal Grant to plan future build-out of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) in Iowa. NPSBN is being undertaken by a new federal agency FirstNet. NPSBN will be a national public safety grade, wireless broadband network. This grant is restricted to specifically this initiative and includes planning, outreach, education of public safety and elected officials, inventory of existing assets that could be leveraged for this broadband network, and funding for any personnel costs directly related to this initiative, e.g., a percentage of the SWIC's salary directly attributable to his work on broadband.
- Fiscal year 2014, and then again in 2015, ISICSB received \$154,000 to conduct state of Iowa interoperability matters not covered by federal grants.

5. *Identify sources for ongoing, sustainable, longer-term funding for communications interoperability projects, including available and future assets that will leverage resources and provide incentives for communications interoperability participation, and develop and obtain adequate funding in accordance with a communications interoperability sustainability plan.*

- (See #4 above.)
- With the passage of the Federal Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) legislation, Iowa will continue participating in planning, for Iowa's portion of build-out

of FirstNet a nationwide broadband network to supplement public safety's land mobile-radio communications networks with interoperable wireless data capabilities.

- ISICSB continues to seek ways to identify sustainable, long-term funding, and cost containment measures for communications interoperability. Continued state funding for ISICSB allows this board to continue to seek federal grant opportunities. Without funding (local match,) ISICSB will be denied many grant opportunities due to inability to meet timelines of grant request requiring local match.
- Local, county and state funding is essential for sustainability of any interoperable communications system. State funds will continue to be used to train, educate, and where possible build and maintain infrastructure.
- ISICSB will continue to seek grants and outside funding; however, federal grants specifically for interoperable communications are diminishing making state support all the more crucial in receiving such funding.

6. Develop and evaluate potential legislative solutions to address the funding and Resource challenges of implementing statewide communications interoperability initiatives.

- In August, 2013, the Board, on behalf of Iowa, received a Federal broadband planning grant, known as the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) in the amount of \$1.67 Million for a three (3) year planning period to specifically focus on planning for the build-out in Iowa of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), a high-speed wireless broadband network specifically for public safety. This broadband network will supplement and compliment public safety's land-mobile radio systems. This grant can also be used to fund 50% of the SWIC's position, with the restriction that that 50% has to be entirely devoted to broadband planning initiative of the NPSBN. After three (3) years, this grant will expire.
 - Iowa participated in the first SLIGP onsite audit review of fund expenditure in December 2015.

7. Develop a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system that allows for shared communications systems and costs, takes into account infrastructure needs and requirements, improves reliability, and addresses liability concerns of the shared network.

- In 2012, the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Department of Transportation (DOT), and Department of Corrections (DOC), began working together with ISICSB to develop a plan and issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for using State infrastructure and leveraging any other state resource that could be used to develop a communications interoperability radio system. That effort was recalled and a new RFP process was initiated.
- In 2013, ISICSB management monitored and assisted with an RFP for a statewide Department of Public Safety (DPS), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Department of Corrections (DOC) Project 25 700 MHz Phase 2 land-mobile radio (LMR) statewide Platform tying together the seven existing countywide LMR systems.. ISICSB concluded that this RFP is essentially the system that will serve as the anchor for establishing statewide and cross state interoperability for in Iowa.

- ISICSB worked closely with Department of Administrative Services (DAS) through the RFP process and offered support and/ or assistance with the planning of how this LMR Platform system will serve as the core network for all of Iowa public safety voice interoperability.
 - In July 2014, DAS received three proposals to RFP for a Project 25 Phase two statewide 700 MHz land mobile radio (LMR) system procurement. Bid offers were scored (three ISICSB members participated in that evaluation and scoring). DAS awarded this contract to the low bidder Motorola Solutions. High bidders Harris Corporation, and RACOM promptly protested this award.
 - In October 2014, an administrative law judge ruled the state had not violated the processes Harris Corporation and RACOM protested, and directed DAS to immediately begin procurement award.
 - In November 2014, RACOM entered a protest with DAS seeking reversal of the administrative law judge's ruling.
 - An initial study known as the "master plan" had estimated the cost of a statewide system to be about \$336 million. 2014 bid responses from Motorola (for system infrastructure) came in at less than \$69 million including financing the platform and spread over a ten year payment cycle. Annual payments range from just under \$4 million to just under \$7 million.
 - Motorola's offer was significantly lower than the other two bidders, so much so the administrative law judge pointed out in her ruling that even if losing bidder had been awarded points on all the points they sought in the case, the outcome of this bid award would not have changed.
 - In August 2015 Department of Administrative Services signed a CSA (Customer Service Agreement) with Motorola. As of the date of this report, the actual lease purchase agreement with Motorola has not been signed.
 - ISICSB members believe by working with state agencies to create a "shared interoperable" LMR P 25 700 MHz Phase 2 statewide platform both interoperability and a very significant cost savings for state and local governments occur.
- ISICSB has continued to expand county and local membership on all six committees, Finance, Governance, Operations, Outreach, Technology, and Training and Exercise to make sure our on-going process to gather input from local users on a continuous basis, to ensure that the actual state-wide system operational protocols remain up to date. To date ISICSB has over 70 county and local committee member representatives.

8. Investigate data and video interoperability systems.

- In 2010, Iowa was one of twenty-one jurisdictions (one of seven states) to be granted an FCC license to build a public safety high speed wireless network for data and video interoperability, the precursor to the NPSBN. The ISICSB applied for, but did not receive a federal grant to initiate construction of this network. The grant was denied

because the ISICSB lacked the 20% matching fund requirement and had no sustainable state appropriations.

- With the passage of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) legislation by Congress in February of 2013, mandating the build-out of a public safety broadband network in each state, the ISICSB created a FirstNet Broadband Sub-Committee to address Iowa's portion of planning and technology issues of this coming national network.
 - This Sub Committee is Co-Chaired by ICN Executive Director Ric Lumbard and CIO Robert von Wolfradt; SWIC Allen, other members include state and local subject matter experts (SMEs), Department of Management, E911 Council Chair, Connect Iowa, and representatives of police, fire and EMA.
- In November 2015 ISICSB Chair Thomas Lampe, along with ICN staff met with Marshalltown School officials to launch a WI-SCHOOLS project in the Marshalltown High School. Using existing high speed ICN fiber connections at the Marshalltown school and other schools across Iowa will provide public safety responders with a secure, private, super-fast broadband wireless connection thru WIFI for devices during day to day and emergencies at the school. This project is intended to serve as a model for Iowa demonstrating protection of our Schools with existing technology, (ICN fiber connections). This also simulates a FIRSTNET broadband connection that only public safety has access to. This pilot project with Marshalltown schools is intended to last approximately 1 year.

9. Expand, maintain, and fund consistent, periodic training programs for current communications systems and for the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system as it is implemented.

- The ISICSB has established and maintained a periodic training program for Iowa's public safety officials through a series of regional workshops annually funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) / Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), called Technical Assistance (TA) grants which can be presented throughout the state. The ISICSB has acquired several national DHS/OEC interoperability tools for these efforts, such as:
 - ISICSB hosted a Communication Training Session in Davenport and participated in two National Guard sponsored events where several COML and COMT participants were able to complete their task books to apply for credentialing through ISICSB.
 - In May 2013, a multi-state workshop was held in Des Moines to put together a standard recognition and credentialing process for the COML and COMT positions in Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas. This process ensures trainees take the relevant courses and then demonstrate their skills so that they are not only better prepared to use these skills in Iowa, but regionally and nationally, if requested. So far, several individuals successfully completed this COML or COMT process in 2013, 2014 and 2015 and received credentials from the ISICSB.
- The above efforts are those training initiatives which, although they do not replace a statewide communications system, can help improve interoperability in pre-planned or

recovery situations like Iowa's where public safety uses many disparate radio systems to communicate. ISICSB has credentialed over 15 COMLs, COMTs since 2013.

10. Expand, maintain, and fund stakeholder education, public education, and public official education programs to demonstrate the value of short-term communications Interoperability solutions, and to emphasize the importance of developing and funding long-term solutions, including implementation of the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system.

- (See #9 above.)
- Besides the ISICSB's efforts regarding improving interoperability with traditional land-mobile radio (LMR) systems, the ISICSB has initiated stakeholder education regarding the new Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) system to be built in the near future in every state as part of a single nationwide high-speed wireless broadband network designed to supplement and complement public safety's LMR systems. A Federal grant has been obtained, which will fund stakeholder education and planning for this coming network over the next t (3) years (through 2018).
- In June, and again in October 2015, SWIC and Federal Department of Homeland Security, (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) met with E911 Council and ISICSB stakeholders to review Iowa's Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). Last updated in 2013 E911 Council was included in strategic planning process; prior to 2013 only the ISICSB annually developed Iowa's SCIP. The E911 Program and E911 Communications Council, which serves as an advisory group to the E911 Program Manager, continue to oversee enhancement of Iowa's 911 system from E(enhanced) 911 to NG (next generation) 911, an all Internet-Protocol network, which will eventually converge with the NPSBN that the ISICSB is overseeing. The SCIP represents a strategic plan which contains a vision, objectives, and goals for the Council and Board.

11. Identify, promote, and provide incentives for appropriate collaborations and partnerships among government entities, agencies, businesses, organizations, and associations, both public and private, relating to communications interoperability.

- (See #10 above regarding a single unified SCIP [strategic plan] for Iowa between the ISICSB and E911 Program and Council.)
- (See # 7 regarding the collaboration and issuance of a statewide multi-state agency RFP for a land-mobile radio (LMR) system.)
- Board Management and the SWIC did presentations at several events in 2015. The goal of the presentations was to share on the FIRSTNET initiative and create new potential partnerships for the FIRSTNET network in Iowa.

12. Provide incentives to support maintenance and expansion of regional efforts to promote implementation of the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system.

- (See #7 regarding the multi-state agency land-mobile radio RFP.)

- Now that DAS has finalized procurement award of a statewide LMR platform ISICSB examines ways to incentivize expansion of the statewide system to support regional efforts and bring to fruition the implementation of a statewide integrated public safety interoperable communications system.

13. In performing its duties, consult with representatives of private businesses, organizations, and associations on technical matters relating to data, video, and communications interoperability; technological developments in private industry; and potential collaboration and partnership opportunities.

- ISICSB members and the SWIC have met with all six Homeland Security regions creating six Regional Interoperability Committees (RICs) to advise ISICSB on issues of local concern, in addition to many county and city public safety groups regarding a statewide LMR system, SWIC also made presentations to various organizations across Iowa on ISICSB activities and the FirstNet NPSBN initiatives.
- ISICSB Technology Committee, FirstNet Broadband subcommittee hosted a Public Private meeting inviting in telecommunications industry stakeholders to discuss options and concerns as FirstNet gets planned for Iowa. One outcome of that meeting was a letter to FirstNet recommending Iowa business community have an opportunity to compete for any business FirstNet may do in Iowa.
- ISICSB Operations Committee is currently standing up a Public Private subcommittee to bridge concerns of private businesses providing communication resources to Iowa public safety community.
- ISICSB Chair and SWIC expanded the ISICSB meeting model to include use of a conference line for all meetings, both Board and Committee, posting meetings times, dates and locations on the ISICSB website such that any interested party can listen into the meetings and comment under public comment periods.

14. Submit a report by January 1, annually, to the members of the general assembly regarding communications interoperability efforts, activities, and effectiveness at the local and regional level, and shall include a status report regarding the development of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system, and funding requirements relating thereto.

- This report satisfies this requirement.

Attachments Policy Statements for 2015

1. 2015 – 01 Endorsement for procurement and state funding of P25 700 MHz LMR Platform,
2. 2015 – 02 Supporting government control of interoperability frequencies and channels,
3. 2015 – 03 Defining public safety grade,
4. 2015 – 04 Iowa statewide interoperability channels,
5. 2015 – 05 AES 256 Encryption SLN TEK KID.



Policy Statement

State of Iowa

Policy Release Number: [2015 - 01](#)

Date of Proposal ISICSB: January 28, 2015

Dates Posted for Public Comment: February 12, 2015 to March 11, 2015

Date Adopted by ISICSB: Meeting March 11, 2015

Public Comment: No public comments received via website. March 11, 2015 Governance Committee provided suggested language to limit state funding. During legal review Board Attorney General legal counsel indicated Board action limiting state funding to a particular source as outside the scope of Board authority, therefore that language change was not adopted by Board.

Policy Statement endorsing support for procurement and state funding of a Project 25 (P25) standards based 700 MHz statewide voice radio platform. Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System Board (ISICSB) hereby documents and publishes policy of support for, the 700 MHz P25 Statewide Voice Land Mobile Radio Interoperable Communications Platform awarded by Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in 2014, as the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications Platform. This Platform achieves tenets outlined in Code of Iowa Sections 80.28 and 80.29. This Platform shall be available statewide for use by any public safety, or public service providers for operable and interoperable communications.

WHEREAS: The Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System Board (ISICSB) created in 2007, is charged under Code of Iowa 80.28 and 80.29 to develop, implement, identify funding for, oversee policy, and operations, which meets the needs of all Iowa public safety, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports P25 standards based communications for radio operable, and interoperable equipment, and land mobile radio (LMR) systems, as documented in ISICSB Policy Statement 2014-01, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides at significant cost savings, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB has proposed several interoperable alternatives seeking to meet Iowa interoperability needs in (2009, 2010) meeting Code of Iowa directives for this Board, which proved too expensive, less expensive alternatives were sought, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports a standards based statewide platform that requires an "open architecture" in all frequency bands for LMR communications systems allowing voice radio equipment from multiple vendors to work together providing real-time operability and interoperability, through a variety of methods including patched interoperability, and provides both long and short-term cost savings for all levels of government, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports common standards for all frequency bands, and multi-vendor equipment to provide effective and reliable inter-agency and intra-agency radio communications, consistent with current best practices and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) Interoperability Continuum, which recognizes a standards based system as the highest level of interoperability, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports development of a statewide, wide area LMR system as the states' operability and interoperability platform, and recognizes the role of a wide area LMR platform as necessary to Iowa statewide voice radio operability and interoperability solution at the city, county, state, and federal levels,

in responding to and mitigating threats and disasters, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports multi-vendor equipment compatibility allowing a graceful migration for all public safety communications systems in all frequency bands leading to increased cross frequency band interoperability, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports standards stimulating manufacturer involvement and competition throughout a system's lifecycle, and multiple vendors' equipment to be utilized on a common system, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

WHEREAS: A coalition of Iowa, City and County agencies voiced their support for a P25 statewide operability and interoperability platform available for their use which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and; Now therefore

IT IS THE ISICSB POLICY:

That the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System Board (ISICSB) hereby documents and publishes policy of support for, the 700 MHz P25 Statewide Voice Land Mobile Radio Interoperable Communications Platform awarded by Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in 2014, as the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications Platform (Platform). This Platform meets tenets outlined in Code of Iowa Sections 80.28 and 80.29. This Platform shall be made available statewide for use by any and all public safety, and public service providers for operable and interoperable communications.

IT IS FURTHER POLICY THAT:

ISICSB shall establish a standing User Group Committee (UGC) of no more than 18 voting members from county and local, and no more than one additional vote per state or federal agency operationally using the Platform. One voting member from each region shall be the Regional Interoperability Committee (RIC) chair for that region, whether or not that RIC chair is a user of Platform. Ex officio non-voting members of this committee shall include current president/chair, or their designee of the following Iowa associations: Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO), Association of School Boards, Emergency Management Association, Emergency Medical Services Association, Hospital Association, Fire Chiefs Association, Fire Fighters Association, League of Cities, National Emergency Number Association (NENA), Police Chiefs Association, Police Officers Association, Public Airport Association, Public Health Association, Public Transit Association, Public Works Association, Sheriff and Deputies Association, State Association of Counties, State Patrol Supervisor's Association, State Troopers Association, 700 MHz Regional Planning Group, 800 MHz Regional Planning Group, Region 15, and other associations as deemed necessary by the Governance Committee to ensure adequate representation of stakeholders in monitoring and governance of this platform. To be a voting member, unless RIC chair for that region, users must be from, and represent a user agency, using this interoperable platform for daily operability/interoperability, in their respective region. User agencies must demonstrate full-time daily operational/interoperable use on interoperable platform, as determined by

Governance Committee, and then may apply in writing to ISICSB Chair for appointment to USC as one representative from their region. ISICSB Chair shall appoint no more than three users from any one of six regional areas, and one of those three regional representatives shall be RIC chair for that region. Chair shall seek to diversify public safety users across public safety disciplines represented on ISICSB using weighting methodologies. Weighted methodologies shall be determined and agencies recommended to ISICSB Chair by Governance Committee. Governance Committee shall include consideration of 1) number users of each discipline on interoperable platform, 2) frequency of use of platform by each discipline, 3) specific needs of each discipline, 4) and other unique factors as determined by Governance Committee. These weighting methodologies, terms of appointment, meeting dates and locations may change, from time to time, to accommodate changing user participation on Iowa Interoperability Voice Radio Platform, or other circumstances, to maintain an effective advisory role of this standing committee for determining platform access, performance, security, grade of service, and other features and functions as may become technologically available, or necessary for the uninterrupted use and sustainment of this platform. This User Group Committee may recommend to ISICSB on any matters regarding the Statewide Platform including criteria for adding or removing users, increasing or decreasing coverage, availability, reliability, security, resiliency, features or functionality.

IT IS FURTHER POLICY THAT:

ISICSB recognizes this is a Statewide Land Mobile Voice Radio Platform with a primary purpose of providing operable and interoperable public safety voice radio communication needs. ISICSB support does not include providing funding for subscriber units for any agency at the federal, state, county, or local level. Each agency whether federal, state, county or local must buy their own radios or system, network, or connection to platform. ISICSB's support recognizes agencies using this platform for operational use (not interoperable use), may be requested to pay fees, which may be necessary from time to time associated with access, use, enhancement, or sustained support of this platform.



Policy Statement

State of Iowa

Policy Release Number: [2015-02](#)

Date of Proposal ISICSB: Meeting: April 8, 2015
Dates Posted for Public Comment: April 8th, 2015
Date Adopted by ISICSB: Meeting May 13th, 2015
Public Comment: 1

Policy Statement supporting government control of Iowa Public Safety and Public Service communications on interoperable frequencies or channels for all voice radio communications equipment, land mobile radio (LMR) systems, or data sharing systems.

WHEREAS: The Iowa statewide interoperability communications system board (ISICSB) is established in Code of Iowa sections 80.28 and 80.29. ISICSB is charged to develop, implement and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local levels, and to coordinate similar efforts at the federal level, with the objective of overseeing operation of statewide integrated public safety systems, and establish, monitor, and maintain appropriate policies and protocols, expand, maintain and fund stakeholder education, public education, and official education programs to demonstrate value of short-term communications interoperability solutions, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports federal and state law or regulations allowing government control and access for public safety, and public service, interoperability on interoperable frequencies and channels, using interoperable equipment on land mobile radio (LMR) and data sharing systems, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB recognizes and supports local government entering into contractual arrangements for delivery of public safety and public services with non-governmental entities therefore conveying to such contractors the ability to use public safety/public service interoperability channels or frequencies the local government unit would otherwise be qualified and allowed to use, so long as any use of any interoperability channel is clearly and specifically articulated in contract between these parties; and local government notifies ISICSB in writing of the existence of such arrangement including the start and ending dates of any contractual arrangements for use of interoperability channels and frequencies within 30 days; and local government unit retains all responsibility and liability of use of any interoperability channel or frequency by such non-governmental contractor; Now therefore;

IT IS THE ISICSB POLICY:

That the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System Board (ISICSB) hereby documents and publishes policy of support for, governmental sub division use of Iowa Interoperability frequencies or channels; and,

IT IS FURTHER POLICY THAT:

ISICSB supports the ability of local government to enter into contractual arrangements with non-governmental entities for delivery of public safety and public services; and

IT IS FURTHER POLICY THAT:



Policy Statement

Policy Release Number: 2015 -2 **Continued Page 2**

ISICSB supports said non-governmental contractor being allowed use of interoperability frequencies or channels that government sub divisions users would otherwise have access to; and

IT IS FURTHER POLICY THAT:

ISICSB recognizes contracts entered into between government sub divisions and their contractors may include the use of interoperability channels or frequencies used as well as periods of times those interoperability channels or frequencies are under terms of contract; and,

IT IS FURTHER POLICY THAT:

ISICSB supports contractor's use of government sub division contract so long as ISICSB is provided any such contract subsequent to execution; and,

IT IS FURTHER POLICY THAT:

ISICSB shall develop and publish in conjunction with Iowa Regional Planning Groups and Association of Public-Safety Officials (APCO) frequency coordinator and other frequency coordinating organizations protocols to be followed in carrying out this policy.



Policy Statement

State of Iowa

Policy Release Number: 2015 – 03

Date of Proposal ISICSB: Meeting: June 10, 2015
Dates Posted for Public Comment: June 11, 2015
Revised reposted July, August, and September
Date Adopted by ISICSB: Meeting: October 14, 2015
Public Comment: None

Policy Statement defining Public Safety Grade (PSG) for all voice and data radio communications equipment, land mobile radio (LMR), or data sharing systems, networks, and platforms.

WHEREAS: The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) is established in Code of Iowa sections 80.28 and 80.29. ISICSB is charged to develop, implement and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local levels, and to coordinate similar efforts at the federal level, with the objective of overseeing operation of statewide integrated public safety systems, and establish, monitor, and maintain appropriate polices and protocols, expand, maintain and fund stakeholder education, public education, and official education programs to demonstrate value of short-term communications interoperability solutions, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports common terms defining public safety equipment and services necessary for interoperability on frequencies and channels, and operable and interoperable equipment on land mobile radio (LMR) and data sharing systems, networks, and platforms, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports and encourages nationally recognized organizations to continue providing standardization of public safety equipment, systems, networks, platforms, and services like Project 25 for LMR (e.g., see Policy Statement 2015-01; Project 25) for use on all channels, frequencies, and talkgroups for interoperability, and operability as locally appropriate and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB recognizes Public Safety Grade (PSG) as an evolving set of standards across all aspects of public safety communications of nationally recognized standard(s) setting bodies charged with establishing minimum levels of equipment design, user ergonomics, design of systems, networks, and platforms, standards for backwards compatibility, capabilities, features, performance, quality, coverage, availability, reliability, capacity, security, resiliency individually or collectively describing equipment and services designed to perform under all emergency response conditions, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB recognizes common terminology provides ease of understanding to laymen of complex and sophisticated communication equipment, systems, networks, and platforms, and; Now therefore;

IT IS THE ISICSB POLICY:

That the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) hereby documents and publishes policy of defining Public Safety Grade (PSG) to mean: Equipment making up or used upon standards based interoperable public safety systems, networks, and platforms. PSG equipment and systems, networks, and platforms designed to meet or exceed United States nationally recognized standards established by bodies who publish an evolving set of standards for backwards compatibility, capabilities, features, performance, quality, coverage, availability, reliability, capacity, security, resiliency, and equipment ergonomically designed for public safety use to achieve interoperability, and operability where appropriate, under all emergency response conditions.



Policy Statement

State of Iowa

Policy Release Number: [2015 – 04](#)

Date of Proposal ISICSB Meeting: November 18, 2015
Dates Posted for Public Comment: November 18, 2015 to December 9, 2015
Date Adopted by ISICSB: Meeting December 9, 2015
Public Comment: None

Policy Statement establishing Iowa Statewide Interoperability Channels.

WHEREAS: Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications Systems Board (ISICSB) created in 2007, is charged under Code of Iowa 80.28 and 80.29 to develop, implement, identify funding for, oversee policy, and operations, which meets the needs of all Iowa public safety, and;

WHEREAS: Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications Systems Board (ISICSB) is granted the authority in the State of Iowa Code 80.29(3) to establish, monitor, and maintain appropriate policies and protocols to ensure that interoperable communications systems function properly.

WHEREAS: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), has allowed individual states to govern the use of specific interoperable frequencies.

Now therefore

IT IS THE ISICSB POLICY:

That Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications Systems Board (ISICSB) hereby documents and publishes this Policy Statement establishing the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Channels.

IT IS FURTHER POLICY THAT:

ISICSB directs the Technology Committee to define (eligibility, usage, frequencies, squelch protection, emission types, etc.) and list, license (as appropriate), publish on the ISICSB web site, and review every six months the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Channels.



Policy Statement

State of Iowa

Policy Release Number: [2015 – 05](#)

Date of Proposal ISICSB: Meeting: November 18, 2015
Dates Posted for Public Comment: November 18, 2015 to December 9, 2015
Date Adopted by ISICSB: Meeting: December 9, 2015
Public Comment: None

Policy Statement endorsing use of Project 25 (P25) Encryption Standards based security solution using National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 197 for the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES 256-bit) for secure communications and recommends reserving SLN 1 through 20 for nationwide interoperable key management placement of Storage Location Number (SLN), Traffic Encryption Key (TEK), and Key ID (KID).

WHEREAS: The Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications Systems Board (ISICSB) created in 2007, is charged under Code of Iowa 80.28 and 80.29 to develop, implement, identify funding for, oversee policy, and operations, which meets the needs of all Iowa public safety, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports P25 standards based communication standards for radio operable, and interoperable equipment, and land mobile radio (LMR) systems, as documented in ISICSB Policy Statement 2014-01, which is a 700 MHz P25 Phase 2 statewide interoperable platform which supports this policy statement, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports common policy and procedures for interoperability across Iowa including use of encryption as required for operational needs and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports multi-vendor equipment compatibility allowing a graceful migration for all public safety communications systems in all frequency bands leading to increased cross frequency band interoperability, and common encryption keys and allocations which this 700 MHz P25 Phase 2 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

Now therefore

IT IS THE ISICSB POLICY:

That the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications Systems Board (ISICSB) hereby documents and publishes this Policy Statement endorsing use of Project 25 (P25) Encryption Standards based security solution using NIST FIPS-197 compliant Advanced Encryption Standard (AES 256-bit) for secure communications and recommends reserving SLN 1 through 20 for nationwide interoperable key management placement of Storage Location Number (SLN), Traffic Encryption Key (TEK), and Key ID (KID) in all P25 equipment, systems, networks and platforms capable of encryption.