



**April 20, 2007**

**CONTACT:**

**Neil Gaffney**

**(703) 907-7721**

**[ngaffney@tiaonline.org](mailto:ngaffney@tiaonline.org)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**In Letter to Congress, TIA Addresses GAO  
Inaccuracies on Project 25 Progress**

Arlington, Va. – Today, the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) sent a letter to Congressman William Lacy Clay and Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich responding to the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) report entitled “FIRST RESPONDERS: Much Work Remains To Improve Communications Interoperability” (GAO-07-301). Project 25 (P25) is an interoperability suite of standards for digital two-way wireless communications products and systems. The P25 standards are created by a committee of manufacturers, public safety agencies and state and federal communications professionals to provide detailed standards for the design of communications systems so that all purchasers of P25-compatible equipment can communicate with each other. To view TIA’s letter, go to <http://www.tiaonline.org/policy/publications/documents/TIAResponsetoGAOReportonP25.pdf>.

As the publisher of the P25 standards, TIA takes its role in improving the technology that supports first responders very seriously and agrees with the GAO’s conclusion that “a comprehensive suite of standards such as Project 25 is critical to achieving interoperability among different manufacturers’ products.” However, TIA believes that the report contains a number of misleading statements that could lead to an inaccurate perception of the current state of interoperability.

In its letter, TIA highlighted that the P25 effort has resulted in the publication of 125 documents that support interoperability for public safety networks and that these documents “have been endorsed by numerous agencies including the Federal Communications Commission, the National Communications System, the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Telecommunications and

Information Administration, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Interior, and the Department of Justice.”

TIA criticized GAO’s assertion that “a lack of compliance testing has limited product interoperability.” While TIA is troubled over many of the GAO’s findings, TIA concluded its letter by reiterating its commitment to improving communications interoperability at all levels of government.

###

**About TIA:** The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) is the leading trade association in Washington, D.C., for the information, communications and entertainment technology industry. TIA serves global industry suppliers to global markets through its leadership in standards development, domestic and international policy advocacy, and facilitating member business opportunities such as the co-owned NXTcomm. TIA represents the communications sector of the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA). For more information, go to [www.tiaonline.org](http://www.tiaonline.org).