Improving spectrum efficiency is a critical issue facing government organizations. Agencies want to do more with the spectrum that they have assigned. And government spectrum bodies are mandating that equipment become more spectrum efficient. Project 25 has addressed this new requirement with the Phase 2 TDMA standard.

ASTRO 25 trunked systems are now available with Project 25 standards-based TDMA. This capability provides organizations with the flexibility required to maximize current frequency allocations with a standards-based solution while maintaining interoperability with other Project 25 systems.

**PROJECT 25 TDMA STANDARD**

The TIA-102 suite of standards defines Project 25 (P25) TDMA, adding spectrum-efficient TDMA voice service to the existing P25 FDMA trunked voice and packet data services.

P25 TDMA capable systems use the P25 FDMA control channel for all call requests, which allows systems to support FDMA calls as well as TDMA calls.

**ENHANCED INTEROPERABILITY**

At the cornerstone of all government communications is the need to interoperate with other users to support emergency response. As the new standard was created, interoperability with existing radios was one of the critical requirements. ASTRO 25 systems and APX subscribers support both P25 FDMA and P25 TDMA for interoperability.

In addition to a manual method for supporting interoperability, which requires the user to manually switch talkgroups on the radio, Motorola delivers seamless interoperability with a software feature called Dynamic Dual Mode that automatically selects what protocol is used based on the resources participating in the call.

**SPECTRUM MANDATES**

As part of the ongoing efforts to maximize spectrum, governing bodies are mandating that radio systems must move to 6.25 kHz spectrum-efficient methods. For example, by 2017 the FCC will require 6.25 kHz equivalent operations for 700 MHz band plans.
INCREASED VOICE CAPACITY

With P25 TDMA, organizations can double their voice capacity within their fixed allocation of frequencies. For example, they can go from having 5 simultaneous voice calls using P25 FDMA trunked operation to the ability to have up to 10 simultaneous voice calls using P25 TDMA trunked operation. ASTRO 25 TDMA provides the additional advantage of increasing the potential voice path capacity of your system by offering up to 30 voice paths at a site.

ASTRO 25 is a robust solution for government agencies. P25 TDMA functionality can be added to ASTRO 25 systems along with P25 FDMA trunking and conventional, 3600 trunking, analog conventional, and integrated data operation for total flexibility.

DYNAMIC DUAL MODE

Dynamic Dual Mode, an optional feature, allows users to interoperate between P25 FDMA and P25 TDMA services. It is part of the call processing application and uses an advanced control channel that dynamically switches call assignments between FDMA and TDMA.

Dynamic Dual Mode is seamless to users and requires no intervention from users or network operators. For example, if a user in an active P25 TDMA talkgroup call, roams onto a P25 FDMA-only site, the system automatically initiates P25 FDMA mode at the next push-to-talk (PTT). Or if an active P25 TDMA talkgroup call is underway at a site and a P25 FDMA-only member of the talkgroup joins (or “affiliates”) with the call, the system automatically switches the call to P25 FDMA mode at the next PTT. The FDMA-only user is now included in the call, and the call switched without any user intervention or awareness.

As an added benefit in encrypted systems, the call set-up automatically switches between FDMA and TDMA while maintaining end-to-end encryption. This provides a high level of assurance that the system remains secure from dispatcher to radio user.

IMPROVED SYSTEM OPERATION

Dynamic Dual Mode improves ease of use in ASTRO 25 systems with a mixed fleet of P25 FDMA and P25 TDMA radios.

- Radio users have seamless interoperability regardless of the operations mode.
- Dispatch operators can automatically coordinate between P25 TDMA radio users and P25 FDMA radio users with no need to track or patch users together.
- System administrators do not need to preassign base stations as P25 TDMA or P25 FDMA; the system automatically assigns the appropriate station mode based on the needs of the user.

IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

Starting with ASTRO 25 System Release 7.11, P25 TDMA and Dynamic Dual Mode are available in trunked, simulcast and standalone repeater configurations operating in the VHF, UHF, 700 MHz and 800 MHz bands.

On fielded ASTRO 25 systems, key system components including G-series stations, controllers and comparators, the MCC 7500 IP Dispatch Console, and APX™ radios can be software upgraded to P25 TDMA.

The APX series of trunked radios is available with P25 FDMA and P25 TDMA in the same radio. Dynamic Dual Mode automatically switches between the capabilities.