



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Memorandum

Subject: INFORMATION: Notification of Audit of FAA's
Next Generation Air/Ground Communications
Program, Project No. 03A3014A000

Date: August 6, 2003

From: David A. Dobbs
Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation Audits

Reply to
Attn of: JA-10:x60500

To: John Hennigan
Acting Assistant Administrator
for Financial Services/CFO

The Office of Inspector General plans to conduct an audit of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Next Generation Air/Ground Communications (NEXCOM) Program. The NEXCOM Program is the critical element in FAA's effort to modernize air-to-ground communications and meet future communications requirements in the National Airspace System (NAS). NEXCOM will replace existing, antiquated analog communications technology with digital voice and data link technology. NEXCOM is expected to significantly increase the number of frequencies available in the NAS to meet communications growth requirements through 2030 and change the way information is exchanged between FAA and airspace users.

The objectives of the audit are to determine whether (1) FAA's strategy is cost-effective and whether there are opportunities to reduce program costs; (2) key risks to this effort, including any security concerns, are being adequately addressed in the program design; and (3) FAA has an effective process to control contract costs. The audit will be conducted at FAA Headquarters and other selected facilities as determined necessary during the review.

This audit is planned for FAA Headquarters and other locations as deemed necessary during our review. We plan to begin our review during the week of August 11, 2003. Matt Hampton is the Program Director and Kevin Dorsey is the Project Manager. We will be contacting your office to arrange an entrance conference. If you have any questions or require additional information concerning this audit, please call Matt Hampton at (202) 366-1987.

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cc: FAA Administrator, AOA-1
FAA Chief of Staff, AOA-2
FAA Audit Liaison, ABU-100