



# Memorandum

**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation  
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement –  
Security Controls Audit of the Data  
Communications Program,  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Project No. 14F3011F000

Date: May 27, 2014

From: Louis C. King   
Assistant Inspector General for Financial and  
Information Technology Audits

Reply to  
Attn. of: JA-20

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Data Communications (DataComm) program is an essential element of the Agency's Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) initiative to transform the Nation's air traffic control system to meet future needs. DataComm will provide a direct link for digital communications between aircraft flight decks and air traffic controllers. FAA also expects the system to improve flight safety, controller productivity, aircraft fuel savings, and provide support for other NextGen programs.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) will perform an audit of FAA's information technology security controls for DataComm. Our audit objectives are to determine whether: (1) FAA is identifying security risks and properly mitigating them; and (2) FAA's contingency plan for the system limits the effects of the loss of DataComm's availability.

We will begin this audit in May 2014, and conduct it at FAA Headquarters and selected field sites. We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. Should you have any questions, please call me at (202) 366-1407, or Nathan Custer, Program Director at (202) 366-5540.

cc: Chief Information Officer, DOT  
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Information Services/  
Chief Information Officer, FAA  
DOT Audit Liaison, M-1  
FAA Audit Liaison, AAE-100