



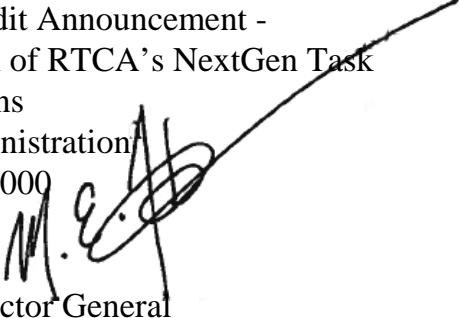
Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement -
FAA's Implementation of RTCA's NextGen Task
Force Recommendations
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 10A3005A000

Date: June 8, 2010

From: Matthew E. Hampton 
Deputy Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation and Special Program Audits

Reply to JA-10
Attn. of:

To: Assistant Administrator for Financial Services
and Chief Financial Officer

In September 2009, a joint Government/industry task force, known as the "RTCA Task Force 5," reported on steps the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and industry should take over the next 3 to 5 years to begin efficiently transitioning to the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). The Task Force's recommendations focus on leveraging existing aircraft equipment and new procedures, enhancing information sharing among FAA and airspace users, and reducing air and ground delays. While FAA has endorsed these recommendations, it will have to significantly adjust NextGen plans and budgets, establish and meet milestones for new initiatives, and increase coordination with industry to successfully execute them.

The Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Subcommittee on Aviation have requested that we review FAA's actions to address the Task Force's recommendations. Accordingly, our audit objectives are to assess the extent to which FAA is (1) responding to the recommendations, including adjusting its budgets and establishing mechanisms for continued industry collaboration, and (2) addressing barriers that may hinder its ability to successfully implement the recommendations.

We plan to begin the audit the week of June 14, 2010, and will contact your audit liaison to arrange an entrance conference. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 366-0500 or Robin P. Koch, Program Director, at (404) 562-3770.

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cc: FAA Deputy Administrator
Anthony Williams, ABU-100
Martin Gertel, M-1