



# Memorandum

**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation  
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement—FAA's  
Acquisition Workforce  
Project No. 10Z3002Z000

Date: November 23, 2009

From: *Mark H. Zabarsky*  
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Procurement Audits

Reply to  
Attn. of: JA-60

To: Assistant Administrator for  
Financial Services and Chief Financial Officer

The Office of Inspector General is initiating an audit of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) acquisition workforce. This effort is part of our risk-based oversight strategy developed to help the Department of Transportation address management challenges in their acquisition function.

In recent years, the concern over the availability of acquisition professionals in sufficient numbers to provide effective contract management has been recognized as a significant Government-wide challenge. As such, sound contract management policies as well as a stable, experienced acquisition workforce are essential components for the effective execution and performance of the Department's core missions. With the expanding and increasingly complex acquisition workload, addressing this challenge is critical. Of most concern is FAA's transition to the Next Generation Air Transportation System—a system that must safely accommodate what could be a triple increase in air traffic by the year 2025. This system has significantly increased its acquisition workload and will require new skills and additional resources.

FAA is in the process of developing a multi-phased Acquisition Workforce Plan to address its workforce challenges and respond to recommendations outlined in a report issued by the National Academy of Public Administration.<sup>1</sup> Our audit objectives are to assess the adequacy of FAA's plans for determining its acquisition workforce needs and progress for implementing actions to address those needs.

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<sup>1</sup> Identifying the Workforce to Respond to a National Imperative: The Next Generation Air Transportation System, The National Academy of Public Administration, September 2008.

We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Letko, Program Director, at 202-205-6859 or Dormayne Dillard-Christian, Project Manager, at 202-366-8011.

cc: FAA Deputy Administrator  
Vice President of Acquisition and Business Services  
FAA Chief of Staff  
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