




Memorandum

U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement – FAA’s
Progress in Developing and Implementing the
Next Generation Air Transportation System
Transformational Programs
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 10A3002A000

Date: October 27, 2009

From: Lou E. Dixon 
Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation and Special Program Audits

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-10

To: Assistant Administrator for Financial Services
and Chief Financial Officer

Over the next 5 years, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) plans to spend more than \$6 billion on various initiatives for its Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) effort. FAA’s goals for NextGen focus on replacing aging air traffic control equipment, boosting productivity of the overall system, and reducing delays at congested airports.

In May 2009, the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security asked our office to review FAA’s progress with five NextGen programs identified as key to changing how air traffic is managed. These programs include the Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast (ADS-B), System-Wide Information Management (SWIM), NextGen Data Communications, National Airspace System Voice Switch, and NextGen Network Enabled Weather.

Accordingly, we plan to begin this audit in October 2009. Consistent with the request, our audit objectives will be to (1) review the status of the programs’ cost, schedule, and performance baselines; (2) determine FAA’s progress in implementing these programs and identify risk to achieving NextGen goals. We will also leverage information that our other ongoing reviews have obtained from FAA regarding two of these programs—ADS-B and SWIM.

We will conduct the audit at FAA Headquarters and other FAA sites and contractor facilities as necessary and will contact your audit liaison to arrange an entrance conference. If you have any questions, please contact Matthew E. Hampton, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Aviation and Special Program Audits, at (202) 366-1987 or Kevin Dorsey, Program Director, at (202) 366-1518.

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cc: FAA Deputy Administrator
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