



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Memorandum

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement—Federal
Aviation Administration's Advanced Technologies
and Oceanic Procedures, Project No. 04A3008A000

Date: May 28, 2004

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

Reply to
Attn of: JA-10

To: Assistant Administrator
for Financial Services/CFO, ABA-1

We plan to conduct a review of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) effort to develop and deploy new automated systems for managing traffic over oceanic airspace. Modernizing FAA facilities that manage oceanic air traffic is important to enhance capacity of the National Airspace System and improve the flow of air traffic over the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. FAA is pursuing this effort through the Advanced Technologies and Oceanic Procedures (ATOP) program and plans to install new systems at Oakland, New York, Anchorage, and the FAA Technical Center.

Because of cost and schedule concerns, Congress directed our office in the Conference Report accompanying the Omnibus Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2004 to review FAA's ATOP program. Specifically, we were directed to review the ATOP procurement and provide a comparison of FAA's experience to date in pursuit of oceanic automation capabilities (cost, schedule, and performance specifications) to NavCanada, Airservices Australia, and other major oceanic air traffic service providers.

As directed, our objectives will be to compare FAA's experience in acquiring an oceanic system to the experiences of other major oceanic air traffic control service providers. We will review cost, schedule, and performance specifications and the operating environment (complexity and volume of airspace) the systems were designed to accommodate. In addition, we will provide an update to our March 31, 2004 status report on ATOP. During the audit, we will visit FAA Headquarters, contractor facilities, and air traffic service providers in select foreign countries.

We plan to start the audit the week of June 7, 2004. Mr. Sean Woods, the Project Manager for this audit, will be contacting the FAA liaison to arrange an entrance conference. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact him at (202) 366-1525.

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