



U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Memorandum

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement —FAA's
Joint Planning and Development Office
Project No. 05A3012A000

Date: July 18, 2005

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

Reply to
Attn of: JA-10

To: Ramesh K. Punwani
Assistant Administrator for Financial
Services/CFO

In response to *Vision 100-Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act* (Public Law 108-176), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has established a Joint Program and Development Office (JPDO) to coordinate research conducted by various Federal agencies and develop a vision for the next generation air traffic management system in the 2025 timeframe.

FAA published the Next Generation Air Transportation System Integrated Plan for the JPDO in December 2004. However, the plan did not specify what new capabilities would be pursued or how much they would cost. Moreover, recent congressional hearings underscored the need for actions that can materially improve how air traffic is managed well before the 2025 timeframe. A clear understanding of funding requirements for the new office (and how they will be paid for) will be important as Congress prepares to reauthorize FAA programs and explores financing mechanisms.

At the request of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Aviation Subcommittee, we are examining progress to date with the new JPDO. The objectives of the audit will be to determine: (1) progress made by JPDO in aligning and leveraging research conducted by other Federal agencies, (2) how the JPDO will shift new technologies and capabilities from research to prototype and introduction into the National Airspace System, and (3) what barriers JPDO must overcome to transition to a new air traffic management system.

This audit will be conducted at FAA Headquarters, selected research laboratories, and other locations as deemed necessary. We plan to start this audit the week of July 18, 2005. We will contact FAA's audit liaison to arrange a formal entrance conference. Matt Hampton is the Program Director for this audit. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at (202) 366-0500 or Mr. Hampton at (202) 366-1987.

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cc: FAA Deputy Administrator
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