

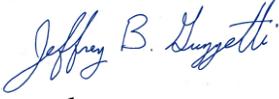


Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement –
Review of FAA’s Automatic Dependent
Surveillance – Broadcast (ADS-B) Program
Project No. 12A3004A000

Date: May 14, 2012

From: Jeffrey B. Guzzetti 
Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation and Special Program Audits

Reply to
Attn of: JA-10

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

The Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast (ADS-B) program is a cornerstone of the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) efforts to modernize air traffic control from its present state into the Next Generation Air Transportation System. The ADS-B program will supplement radar by leveraging satellite-based technology, aircraft avionics, and ground-based systems to provide information on the position of aircraft to pilots and air traffic controllers in all phases of flight. The successful implementation of ADS-B is critical to realize the benefits of FAA’s plans to increase the safety and overall efficiency of the National Airspace System. FAA has spent almost \$900 million on ADS-B since 2007 and plans to spend an additional \$1 billion between fiscal years 2012 and 2016.

Our previous work on the ADS-B program identified risks in several key areas that will directly impact the cost, schedule, and expected benefits of ADS-B: aircraft equipage, controller/pilot procedures, impact of more aircraft using an already crowded radio frequency, integration with automation systems controllers rely on to manage air traffic, and potential security vulnerabilities. We have also reported that risks with FAA’s contract approach could increase the overall program’s cost and will require sustained management attention.¹

At the request of the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban

¹ OIG Report No. AV-2011-002. “FAA Faces Significant Risks in Implementing the Automatic Dependent Surveillance–Broadcast Program and Realizing Benefits.” October 12, 2010. OIG reports are available on our Web site at <http://www.oig.dot.gov/>.

Development, and Related Agencies, we are conducting a follow-up audit of FAA's ADS-B program. Our review will also address requirements in the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012² that we conduct an annual review of the ADS-B program. Our audit objective is to assess FAA's progress with mitigating risks and addressing challenges associated with implementation of ADS-B.

We plan to begin our audit work in June 2012 and will be contacting your office to arrange an entrance conference. If I can answer any questions or be of further assistance, please contact me at (202) 366-0500 or Kevin Dorsey, Program Director, at (202) 366-1518.

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cc: FAA Deputy Administrator
FAA Chief of Staff
FAA Chief Operating Officer
Pierre McLeod, AAE-100
Martin Gertel, M-1

² Public Law 112-95.