The Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Data Communications (DataComm) program is an essential element of the Agency’s Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) initiative to transform the Nation’s air traffic control system to meet future needs. DataComm will provide a direct link for digital communications between aircraft flight decks and air traffic controllers. FAA also expects the system to improve flight safety, controller productivity, aircraft fuel savings, and provide support for other NextGen programs.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) will perform an audit of FAA’s information technology security controls for DataComm. Our audit objectives are to determine whether: (1) FAA is identifying security risks and properly mitigating them; and (2) FAA’s contingency plan for the system limits the effects of the loss of DataComm’s availability.

We will begin this audit in May 2014, and conduct it at FAA Headquarters and selected field sites. We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. Should you have any questions, please call me at (202) 366-1407, or Nathan Custer, Program Director at (202) 366-5540.

cc: Chief Information Officer, DOT
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