Memorandum

Subject: **<u>INFORMATION</u>**: Audit Announcement –
Audit of En Route Automation Modernization
Program Information Security Controls
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 16F3001F000

Date: April 13, 2016

From: Louis C. King
Assistant Inspector General for Financial
and Information Technology Audits

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-20

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) En Route Automation Modernization (ERAM) program is a key component in the Agency's efforts to modernize our National Airspace System (NAS). ERAM, which replaced 30-year old air traffic control hardware and software at facilities that manage high-altitude traffic, will improve air traffic controllers' ability to separate traffic and process flight plans. In March 2015, FAA declared the ERAM system fully operational at all of the Nation's 20 en route facilities.

Given ERAM's importance in managing high-altitude traffic, effective information security controls are vital to the success of both the system and the NAS. However, recent ERAM software failures that significantly impacted air traffic prompted the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to request that we update our prior cybersecurity work on ERAM.[1]

Accordingly, our audit objectives are to determine: (1) whether FAA has effectively implemented security controls to address weaknesses identified during our prior review of ERAM, and (2) what other security weaknesses, if any, have developed.

We will conduct our audit at FAA headquarters in Washington, DC; the William J. Hughes Technical Center in Atlantic City, NJ; and selected FAA Air Route Traffic Control Centers. We plan to begin work later this month and will contact your audit

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[1] *FAA Has Not Adequately Implemented Security Requirements for Its En Route Automation Modernization System* (OIG Report No. FI-2013-028), December 19, 2012. OIG reports are available on our Web site at http://www.oig.dot.gov/.

liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 366-1407 or Kevin Dorsey, Program Director, at (202) 366-1518.

cc: Chief Information Officer, DOT
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