




Memorandum

Date: November 8, 2022

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement | FAA's Information Technology and Telecommunications Contracts | Project No. 22Z3002Z000
Federal Aviation Administration

From: Charles A. Ward 
Assistant Inspector General for Audit Operations & Special Reviews

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation, FAA

Each year, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) procures billions in information technologies (IT) and telecommunications (telecom) products and services in support of its mission to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world. These procurements are critical to National Airspace System operations and the Next Generation Air Transportation System infrastructure program. They also support basic administrative operations and enhance risk management and security across FAA. For fiscal year 2023, the Agency requested approximately \$3.3 billion for its IT and Telecommunications Infrastructure needs—an increase of over \$140 million from the fiscal year 2021 level and more than \$120 million from the fiscal year 2022 level.

Our recent review of the Department of Transportation's (DOT) IT shared services (ITSS) contract vehicles identified issues with the Department's award and modification practices.¹ These issues included continuous extensions of certain IT and telecom services without the benefits of competition—i.e., best value pricing—as well as contract lapses resulting from delays in awarding extensions.

Given our findings on the recent ITSS contracts audit and the high dollar amounts FAA expends for IT and telecom services, we are initiating this audit. Our objective will be to evaluate FAA's practices for awarding and modifying its IT and telecom contracts.

¹ *Weaknesses in DOT's ITSS Award and Invoice Processes Increase the Risk of Inefficiencies During Acquisitions of Critical IT Products and Services* (OIG Report No. ZA2022039), September 20, 2022. OIG reports are available on our website: <https://www.oig.dot.gov/>.

We plan to begin this work immediately and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Jill Cottonaro, Program Director.

cc: DOT Audit Liaison, M-1
FAA Audit Liaison, AAE-100