



Memorandum

U.S. Department of
Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION**: Audit Announcement –
Status of FAA’s Weather and Aircraft Surveillance
Radar Replacement Program
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 18A3001A000

Date: October 4, 2017

From: Matthew E. Hampton
Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation Audits

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-10

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

The Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Spectrum Efficient National Surveillance Radar (SENSR) program is a cross-agency, multibillion-dollar infrastructure project intended to modernize our Nation’s aging weather and aircraft surveillance radar systems. These ground-based radar systems have been deployed for decades and are required to ensure the safety, security, and efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS).

FAA, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Defense, and Department of Homeland Security, will lead the efforts to assess the feasibility of acquiring new surveillance solutions. FAA plans to fund the development and deployment of new radars through the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015,¹ which permits Federal agencies to auction off Government electromagnetic spectrum and use the proceeds to fund new infrastructure.

Given the significant investment, coordination, and development efforts to procure, test, and implement a new national air and weather surveillance system, the House Committee on Appropriations² directed our office to examine FAA’s SENSR program. Accordingly, our audit objectives are to assess (1) FAA’s actions to leverage work conducted by other agencies to reduce development costs and risks for SENSR; and (2) how FAA plans to integrate SENSR into NextGen and the NAS.

We will conduct our work at FAA Headquarters and other relevant sites. We plan to begin the audit this month and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance

¹ Public Law 114-74.

² House of Representatives Report 114-606. June 7, 2016.

conference. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-366-0500 or Nathan Custer, Program Director, at 202-366-5540.

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