




Memorandum

U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION**: Audit Announcement –
FAA Terminal Modernization at Large TRACONs
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 15A3010A000

Date: October 20, 2015

From: Charles A. Ward 
Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation Audits

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-10

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

The success of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) depends on modernizing air traffic systems controllers use to manage traffic near airports. To achieve this goal, FAA is installing the Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System (STARS) at 11 large Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) facilities. STARS deployment provides FAA with a means to support surveillance system requirements and eliminates the need to sustain both STARS and other legacy terminal systems.

According to FAA, STARS is now deployed at 4 locations, and all 11 sites will be completed by October 2017. However, as we previously reported, it is unclear whether STARS will meet all of FAA's requirements for these large facilities or how STARS will support NextGen capabilities. Concerned with these issues, Congress directed our office to provide an update of FAA's STARS implementation. Accordingly, our objective is to assess FAA's progress in ensuring STARS meets FAA requirements at the 11 large TRACONs and supports NextGen capabilities.

We plan to begin our audit later this month and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. We will conduct our audit work at FAA Headquarters, the FAA Technical Center in Atlantic City, NJ, and selected TRACONs. If you have any questions concerning this audit, please contact me at (202) 366-1249 or Nathan Custer, Program Director, at (202) 366-5540.

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