



U.S. Department of
Transportation
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Memorandum

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Initiated of the
System-Wide Information Management Program
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 08A3018A000

Date: August 29, 2008

From: 
Lou E. Dixon
Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation and Special Program Audits

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-10

To: Assistant Administrator for Financial Services
and Chief Financial Officer

The Office of the Inspector General plans to review the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) System-Wide Information Management (SWIM) program. SWIM is an important part of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) initiative to transform how FAA provides air traffic services.

SWIM is a secure, web-based architecture that is expected to provide National Airspace System users with streamlined information sharing. Through SWIM, airspace users will be able to access weather, flight management, and aeronautical services and applications. FAA intends to integrate SWIM software capabilities with several existing and planned modernization projects, including traffic management and weather systems.

In June 2007, FAA approved the first segment of SWIM for \$104.9 million and plans to spend these funds in fiscal years (FY) 2009 and 2010. These funds will be used to assess technology and cost information for a larger, future effort. In 2009, the SWIM program office plans to establish a baseline for the last 3 years (FY 2011 through FY 2013) of the first segment. The cost to fully implement SWIM is unknown, and FAA faces considerable software design and integration challenges.

Our audit objectives will be to examine (1) the strengths and weaknesses of FAA's approach for developing and funding SWIM efforts, and (2) the effectiveness of FAA's plan to identify and manage key risks that could affect a nationwide

deployment or limit anticipated benefits. A good understanding of these risks will be critical for FAA decision makers and stakeholders.

We will conduct the audit at FAA Headquarters, FAA's integration lab at the William J. Hughes Technical Center, and other FAA sites and contractor facilities. We plan to start the audit during the week of September 1, 2008, and will contact your audit liaison to arrange an entrance conference. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Matt Hampton, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Aviation and Special Program Audits, at (202) 366-1987 or Kevin Dorsey, Program Director, at (202) 366-1518.

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cc: FAA Acting Administrator, AOA-1
FAA Chief of Staff, AOA-2
Anthony Williams, ABU-100
Martin Gertel, M-1