



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement—Federal
Aviation Administration's Telecommunication
Infrastructure Program

Date: April 19, 2005

From: David A. Dobbs 
Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation and Special Program Audits

Reply to
Attn of: JA-10

To: Ramesh Punwani
Assistant Administrator
for Financial Services/CFO

The Office of the Inspector General plans to conduct an audit of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Telecommunication Infrastructure (FTI) program. FTI will be the primary means through which the FAA will acquire telecommunication services through 2017. FTI is key to FAA's efforts to transition from multiple telecommunication networks to a single network, thereby reducing operating costs. FAA re-baselined the FTI program in December 2004 and increased the program costs from \$1.9 billion to \$2.4 billion, the bulk of which (\$2.1 billion) will be funded from the Operations account.

Even though FAA re-baselined the program, there are a number of issues that could impact cost and schedule. For example, FAA has increased the number of sites scheduled to receive FTI from 1,374 to 4,463, and some sites are experiencing delays in implementing the service. Delays to the implementation schedule could translate into increased cost and reduced savings due to the prolonged sustainment of legacy networks. In this regard, a key issue is FAA's progress in transitioning from the Leased Interfacility National Airspace System Communications System (LINCS) to FTI operations.

Our audit objective is to evaluate FAA's efforts to transition to FTI within budget and on schedule. Specifically, we will (1) determine whether FAA's plans to integrate separate FAA owned or leased telecommunications networks into a single network can be delivered within revised cost and schedule baselines, and (2) identify the key program risks that could affect FAA's ability to meet cost and schedule projections.

During the audit, we will visit FAA Headquarters, Air Traffic Control facilities, and contractor facilities. We will also contact the Professional Airways Systems Specialists and other Government and contractor representatives as deemed necessary.

We plan to start the audit during the week of April 25, 2005. Kevin Dorsey is the Program Director for this audit, and he will contact your audit liaison to arrange an entrance conference. If you have any questions or require additional information concerning this audit, please call him at (202) 366-1518.

#

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