



Memorandum

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

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement – Progress
and Problems Implementing the En Route
Automation Modernization Program
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 10A3010A000

Date: September 14, 2010

From: Jeffrey B. Guzzetti
Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation and Special Program Audits

Reply to JA-10
Attn. of:

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

Since 2002, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has planned for the En Route Automation Modernization (ERAM) program to replace hardware and software at facilities that manage high-altitude traffic in the National Airspace System. FAA originally planned to deploy ERAM to all en route facilities by the end of 2010 at a cost of \$2.1 billion. However, ERAM has experienced problems with radar processing and handing off traffic between controllers at FAA's initial operating site in Salt Lake City, Utah. As a result, the cost and schedule to complete ERAM are uncertain. In April 2010, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies requested that we assess FAA's progress and problems with ERAM and the impact of delays on projected costs, schedule milestones, and FAA's efforts to transition to the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen).

Accordingly, our audit objectives are to determine (1) FAA's progress in implementing ERAM and addressing persistent software problems and (2) the potential risks to FAA's plans to implement critical NextGen systems. We plan to begin the audit the week of September 20, 2010, and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 366-0500 or Barry DeWeese, Program Director, at (415) 744-0420.

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cc: Anthony Williams, AAE-001
Martin Gertel, M-1