

FAA Strategic Initiatives

THE STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE

Over the next four years, the FAA will lay the foundation for the aerospace system of the future. As an agency, the FAA has a tremendous opportunity to make a difference for stakeholders, while addressing the challenges that the changing industry presents.

The aerospace industry is growing more complex, and is not the same industry we regulated in decades past. At the same time, there is more safety data than ever before. This provides the FAA with the opportunity to be more proactive about safety and use safety management principles to make smarter, risk-based decisions throughout the agency and with industry and global stakeholders. This will make our aviation system safer and smarter and raise the bar on safety.

The nation's air traffic system is based on infrastructure that was largely built 50 years ago and is out of balance with our stakeholders' changing needs. NextGen is redefining the NAS and is delivering benefits to system users, such as reduced fuel costs, reduced delays, and reduced environmental impact. Great technological advancements require the FAA to safely integrate new types of user technologies, such as unmanned aircraft systems and commercial space vehicles, into the airspace. As we accommodate new services, the FAA must rationalize and rebalance existing services while modernizing our existing infrastructure in order to reduce costs and become more efficient in the long run.

Aviation is also a global industry and millions of Americans travel overseas every year. The FAA must continue America's heritage as world leaders in aviation and set the standard for others to measure against. Aviation was invented in America, but other nations have seen their aviation systems grow dramatically and have become significantly more influential on the international stage. The FAA needs to be at the table to shape international standards to improve aviation safety and efficiency around the world.

Meeting this strategic challenge requires that the FAA harness the collective strength of the agency's employees. The FAA's people are the ultimate drivers of success, which means the FAA must attract and develop the best and the brightest talent with the appropriate leadership and technical skills to undertake this transformation. The FAA's workforce is changing and is in the midst of a retirement wave, which presents both challenges and opportunities. There is significant work to do to set the foundation to empower and innovate with the FAA's people.

This is a bold aspiration for the FAA, and will span beyond the next four years. However, we are committed to seeing measurable and steadfast progress toward this vision by 2018. The rapidly changing industry, the technological opportunities, the uncertain fiscal environment, an evolving workforce, and the global backdrop comprise a compelling case for transformational change, and that is what the FAA expects to achieve.

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FAA STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND PRIORITY INITIATIVES

FAA Strategic Priorities	Administrator Priority Initiatives	Related Sub-initiatives
Make aviation safer and smarter	Risk-Based Decision Making: Build on safety management principles to proactively address emerging safety risk by using consistent, data-informed approaches to make smarter, system-level, risk-based decisions	• Improve standardization, data access, and modeling integration • Enhance decision making process • Redefine oversight model for industry
Deliver benefits through technology and infrastructure	National Airspace System (NAS): Lay the foundation for the NAS of the future by achieving prioritized NextGen benefits, integrating new user entrants, and delivering more efficient, streamlined services	• Focus to achieve the benefits of NextGen • Integrate new user entrants (unmanned aircraft and commercial space) • Right-size the NAS
Enhance global leadership	Global Leadership: Improve safety, air traffic efficiency, and environmental sustainability across the globe through an integrated, data-driven approach that shapes global standards, enhances collaboration and harmonization, and better targets FAA resources and efforts	• Transform our internal structure • Develop an integrated, data-driven approach to international activities • Ensure global interoperability of NextGen • Place international resources strategically
Empower and innovate with the FAA's people	Workforce of the Future: Prepare FAA's human capital for the future, by identifying, recruiting, and training a workforce with the leadership, technical, and functional skills to ensure the U.S. has the world's safest and most productive aviation sector	• Leadership Development • Skills Identification • Skills Development • Attracting Talent