

PREFACE

The *National Airspace System Architecture Version 4.0* is a snapshot of the plan—as of January 1999—to modernize the National Airspace System (NAS). Version 4.0 represents the baseline against which future changes to the plan will be evaluated. The document illustrates the complexity of the NAS and provides information on both sustainment and modernization. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) does not plan to develop a new version of the NAS architecture each year, but on an as-needed basis. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.faa.gov/nasarchitecture>.

This printed document should be used in conjunction with the Web page information because the NAS architecture is not static. The Web page will contain architecture updates and/or revisions, a summary of changes made to the architecture after publication of this document, architecture assessments, and news bulletins. The architecture updates will reflect decisions made by the FAA Joint Resources Council (JRC). Updates may also reflect changes in the FAA's budget, the Joint FAA/Industry concept of operations, or actions taken by the FAA Administrator.

Readers are encouraged to periodically check the Web site because some key NAS programs are currently under review. These include:

- Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System (STARS)
- Oceanic Services
- Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS)
- NAS Infrastructure Management (NIM).

The FAA is committed to refining the consensus on NAS modernization through collaboration with the aviation community on evolution and transition steps to achieve full Free Flight. In the future, the architecture will provide greater detail such as defining requirements, system interfaces, new operation procedures, and transition steps.

