

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



January 6, 2006

Reply to Attn of: **General Law Practice Group**

TO: Distribution

FROM: Associate General Counsel (General)

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the Space Policy Institute
Dinner in Washington, DC, on January 11, 2006

The Space Policy Institute of George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs will hold a space policy dinner at the Primi Piatti restaurant, 2013 I Street, NW, Washington, D.C., on January 11, 2006. I have determined it to be in the best interests of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to the dinner discussion to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The dinner will include a talk by Professor Sigmar Wittig, Chairman of the Executive Board of DLR, the German Space Center, and of the ESA Council. Professor Wittig will speak on "Priorities of German Space Policy and the ESA Ministerial Conference." Approximately 40-50 individuals representing various sectors of the Washington, D.C. space community—Congress and the executive branch, industry, advocacy groups and academia—are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the dinner, which includes all food and beverages, is \$36.00 per person. While costs for the dinner will be supported by contributions from Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, and the Aerospace Corporation, only the Space Policy Institute selects those to be invited.

I find that the dinner meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). Consequently, I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that such free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence any NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests, if invited, may attend the space policy dinner on January 11, 2006, without charge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon".

for R. Andrew Falcon