



June 27, 2006

Reply to Attn of

**General Law Practice Group**

**TO:** Distribution

**FROM:** Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

**SUBJECT:** Approval for Headquarters Employees with Senior Institutional or Project Responsibilities to Attend a Pre-launch Reception Co-sponsored by NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, ATK Launch Systems, Lockheed Martin Michoud Space Systems, and Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

A number of NASA Headquarters employees with senior institutional or project responsibilities with regard to the Space Shuttle Program, External Tank Project, and Constellation Program have been invited to attend a pre-launch reception co-sponsored by NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, ATK Launch Systems, Lockheed Martin Michoud Space Systems, and Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne at the Doubletree Hotel Cocoa Beach, Florida, Friday, June 30, 2006. This event is to be held in conjunction with the launch of STS-121, at the Kennedy Space Center.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of aerospace industry representatives, and Federal and State elected officials. The reception is valued at \$20 per person and approximately 150 individuals have been invited to attend. The reception is fully funded by contributions from the contractors with the MSFC Office of Protocol providing oversight and management of the event. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR §2635.204(g)(2).

ATK Launch Systems, Lockheed Martin Michoud Space Systems, and Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne are contractor companies that are currently involved in the Space Shuttle Program, and the Constellation Program, as well as other contractual matters relating to NASA. Some Headquarters personnel attending this event have duties that may substantially affect the interests of the industry co-sponsors.<sup>1</sup> These personnel are

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<sup>1</sup> These personnel include the Administrator, the Deputy Administrator, the Associate Administrator, the Chief of Staff, the Senior Advisor for Aeronautics Technology, the Associate Administrator for ESMD, the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Human Capital Management, the White House Liaison/Deputy Chief of Staff, the Associate Administrator for PA&E, the CFO, the Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business, the General Counsel, the Assistant Administrator for the

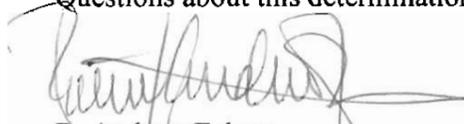
similarly situated in that they each have senior institutional or project responsibilities that could significantly influence current or future ATK Launch Systems, Lockheed Martin Michoud Space Systems, and Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne contracts.

I have determined that free attendance of these senior institutional and project leaders at the pre-launch reception is in the interests of the Agency because it will further Agency programs and operations. This event is co-sponsored by MSFC and the attendance of these senior NASA employees at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with national, state, and local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information concerning its activities.

The total per-person cost for the event is estimated at \$20. Given the purpose of the event, the alignment of the pre-launch reception's interests with NASA's, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of these social events, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these senior institutional and project leaders attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees in the positions identified above may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. Free attendance by employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors is addressed in a separate determination.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Katie Spear at 202-358-0394.



R. Andrew Falcon

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Procurement Office, the Assistant Administrator for External Relations, and the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Legislative Affairs, the Assistant Administrator for SOMD, the Assistant Administrator for the Office of the Chief of Strategic Communications, the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Infrastructure and Administration, the Chief Safety and Mission Assurance Officer, the Chief Engineer, the Associate Administrator for SMD, the Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Education, the Director of IPPO, the Chief Information Officer, the Inspector General, the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Security and Program Protection, the Chief Health and Medical Officer, and the Program Director for the IEMP Office.