National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

February 26, 2007

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Congressional and Industry Reception, February 27, 2007

On February 27, 2007, NASA will host a reception in the Dirksen Senate Office Building from 5 to 8 p.m. A video of the STS-116 mission will be on display during the course of the reception and the STS-116 astronauts will be present. At the event, NASA officials, including the astronauts, will speak to an audience of Congressional staffers, industry representatives, and NASA staff.

The Coalition for Space Exploration, an aerospace industry association, will provide light refreshments at a reception to honor the STS-116 astronauts to be held in conjunction with the NASA event. The Coalition will host its reception with support from its members, including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, the Space Foundation, the Space Transportation Association, Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation, Orbital Sciences, Honeywell, ATK Thiokol, the United Space Alliance, Science Applications International Corporation, Raytheon, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Jacobs Sverdrup, Northrop Grumman, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, Computer Sciences Corporation, ILC Dover, and the American Astronautical Society.

Approximately 600 to 700 people will be invited with about 150 expected to attend. Attendees will include House and Senate Congressional members and staff, NASA personnel, industry representatives, and members of the public. The cost of the food and refreshments to be provided at the reception will be approximately $45 per person. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g).

I have determined that free attendance of NASA employees is in the best interests of the Agency because it will further NASA programs and operations. It would provide an informal opportunity for NASA astronauts, officials, and staff to confer and discuss the STS-116 mission and future Shuttle missions with members of Congress and key Congressional staff, industry representatives, and other attendees.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the Coalition reception for themselves and their invited spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

R. Andrew Falcon