National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

October 16, 2007

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at an STS-120 Post-Launch Reception hosted by Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne

NASA invitees, accompanied by their spouse or a guest, may attend a post-launch reception sponsored by Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne at the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Hotel, Cocoa Beach, Florida, on or about Tuesday, October 23, 2007, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. This event is to be held in conjunction with the launch of STS-120, at the Kennedy Space Center.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of approximately 300 representatives of government, the aerospace industry and the community. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served at a cost of approximately $40 per person. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2). I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned reception is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations.

Accordingly, NASA employees that have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i), regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

R. Andrew Falcon