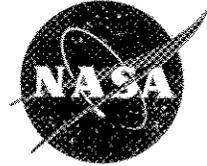


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 20, 2008

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the American Astronautical Society (AAS) 46th Goddard Memorial Symposium

The AAS will hold its 46th Goddard Memorial Symposium on Tuesday through Thursday, March 4-6, 2008, at the Marriott Hotel in Greenbelt, MD. The AAS promotes space exploration and fosters interaction of the aerospace industry, Government agencies, and academia. The theme for this year's Symposium is *Exploration to Commercialization: Going to Work in Space*. Dr. Michael Griffin, NASA's Administrator, is this year's keynote speaker. As part of the three-day Symposium, a reception will be held on the evening of Marchth and luncheons on both days. The featured luncheon speakers will be General Lester L. Lyles, USAF (Ret) and Lon Rains, Editor of Space News.

The Symposium and related events will be widely attended by individuals from other Federal agencies, academia, the aerospace industry, and others who are involved in NASA projects, and with whom NASA personnel will be involved in the implementation of its programs. The estimated costs for food and beverages for the one breakfast is \$18 per person; for each luncheon is \$25 and \$27 per person; and \$20 per person for the reception. Approximately 300 people are expected to attend. AAS is solely responsible for selecting, inviting, and seating of NASA guests.

I find these events meet the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend these events. This Symposium will allow NASA employees to share their views with others interested in space exploration. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event for themselves and their 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 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.


Adam F. Greenstone