

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

John H. Glenn Research Center
Lewis Field
Cleveland, OH 44135-3191



April 16, 2008

Reply to Attn of. G

TO: Distribution

FROM: Deputy Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at an STS-124
Pre-Launch Reception

On Friday, May 30, 2008, Zin Technologies will host a pre-launch reception in anticipation of the STS-124 launch. The event will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Cocoa Beach, Florida, 2028 N. Atlantic Avenue. The reception will begin at 6:00 p.m. and conclude at 8:00 p.m. with approximately 100 people in attendance including representatives from industry, the Executive and Legislative Branches of the U.S. Government, state officials, NASA, and other Federal employees. Zin Technologies will provide food and beverages at a cost of approximately \$30 per person.

I find this event meets 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 having the attendance of the event by NASA personnel. The event will allow NASA employees to discuss the NASA Vision for Space Exploration, the Space Shuttle program, and the STS-124 mission with the other attendees. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the industry co-sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance at the reception.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect these co-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 ethics counselor.

In addition to the reception food and beverages, Zin Technologies will give each attendee a package of three golf balls valued at less than \$5.00 each. Attendees are reminded of the \$20 gift exception at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(a), which provides that employees may accept gifts valued at no more than \$20 per occasion. Accordingly, in addition to accepting free attendance at the event, NASA employees may accept the package of golf balls. NASA invitees are reminded not to exceed the \$50 cap on gifts from one source in a calendar year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. William Sikora".

J. William Sikora
Chief Counsel
Glenn Research Center