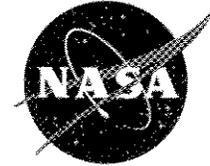


National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



May 19, 2008

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Widely Attended Gathering Determination Regarding Attendance at a National Air and Space Museum Reception and Program on June 19, 2008

On the evening of June 19, 2008, the Maryland Space Business Roundtable is sponsoring, and NASA and the National Air and Space Museum are hosting, a reception and program at the National Air and Space Museum. The purpose of the event, entitled "*Expanding Our Universe*," is to recognize and disseminate information about eight NASA Goddard space and Earth science missions scheduled to launch in 2008 and 2009. The program includes science stations and exhibits throughout the museum at which the attendees will be able to interact with scientists and engineers to learn more about these missions.

Among the approximately 500 guests expected to attend this event are representatives from other Federal agencies, professional organizations, educational leaders, local and state government, members of Congress and key staff, science policy leaders, and industry officials. The estimated cost per person for the reception and program is \$85.

Attendance at the reception will allow NASA employees an opportunity to discuss issues of interest to the scientific community, including upcoming NASA space and Earth science missions, with other attendees from other Federal agencies, Congress, academia, and industry. I, therefore, conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Based on the above, I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR 2635.204(g). I further find that there is an Agency interest in having NASA employees attend this event. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the members of the Maryland Space Business Roundtable sponsoring the event may accept an invitation for free attendance to the dinner for themselves and their spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties substantially affect the members of the Maryland Space Business Roundtable sponsoring this event, for instance by way of procurement duties,

should seek an individual determination regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Below are members of the Maryland Space Business Roundtable Sponsoring the Event:

Raytheon

Honeywell

CSC

Lockheed Martin Space Systems

Orbital Sciences (SSG and TSD)

SGT

The Boeing Company

ManTech

Perot Systems

ASRC

Ball Aerospace

AI Solutions

GST

Integral

SSAI

SAIC

Jackson and Tull

Wyle Information Systems

United Launch Alliance from The Boeing Company EDS STC ADNET GDC4s ERT

Corp Emergent Space General Dynamics Advanced Info. Systems



Adam Greenstone