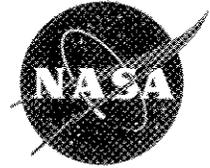


National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



April 29, 2009

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-125 Pre-Launch Reception hosted by USA, Lockheed Martin, and the Boeing Company on May 9, 2009

NASA invitees, and their spouses or guests, may attend a pre-launch reception sponsored by USA, Lockheed Martin, and Boeing Company at the Hilton Cocoa Beach, in Cocoa Beach, Florida, on launch minus 2 days (currently May 11, 2009) from 8:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering, to which approximately 600 representatives from various federal, state, and local governments, academia, industry, and the community. Food and refreshments will be served at a cost of approximately \$34.00 per person. The event provides the participants an informal and casual opportunity for individuals involved in all aspects of the Space Shuttle Program, the International Space Station Program, and the Constellation Program to meet and discuss the programs' accomplishments, with individuals from the communities representing at the reception.

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. However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect 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. Moreover, NASA employees who are in non-career positions in which the President's Executive Order of January 21, 2009, requires signing an ethics pledge may only attend if they reimburse the sponsors the cost of the reception.


Adam F. Greenstone