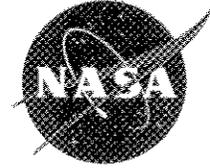


National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
**Headquarters**  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



May 1, 2009

General Law Practice Group

Reply to Attn of:

**TO:** Distribution

**FROM:** Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

**SUBJECT:** Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation Pre-Launch Reception on May 10, 2009

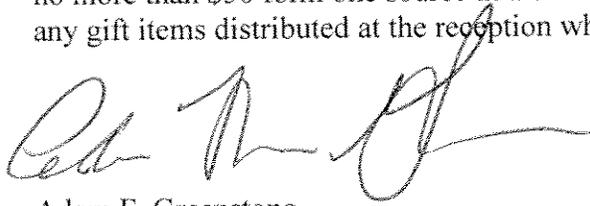
On May 10, 2009, Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation is holding a reception in conjunction with the Shuttle Atlantis STS-125 mission to the Hubble Space Telescope. The reception will be at the Hilton Cocoa Beach, Florida from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the Hubble Space Telescope and the STS-125 mission.

The reception will be widely attended by members of Congress and their staffers, academia, and aerospace and defense industries and associations. Approximately 400 individuals have been invited to the reception. Food and refreshments will be served at a cost of approximately \$25.00 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. The event will give NASA employees the opportunity to exchange views and perspectives on STS-125 and other NASA programs with the representatives from the other communities in attendance.

Accordingly, NASA employees that have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation, 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.

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 (and no more than \$50 from one source in a calendar year). NASA invitees should not accept any gift items distributed at the reception which exceed the \$20 cap.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam F. Greenstone', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam F. Greenstone