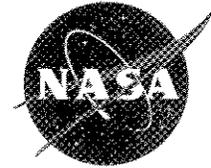


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



June 12, 2009

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Agency Designee

SUBJECT: Approval for NASA Employees with Senior Institutional or Project Responsibilities to Attend a Series of Events in Conjunction with the Paris Air Show on June 14 – 21, 2009

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

A number of NASA employees with senior institutional or project responsibilities¹ have been invited to attend the 2009 Paris International Air Show and a number of events collateral to the Air Show. These events include receptions on June 14th by the State of Alabama at the Eiffel Tower, the United Technologies Corporation at Opera Garnier, and ATK at the Hotel Ritz. The events are sponsored by the State of Alabama; City of Huntsville, Madison County Commission; Huntsville International Airport; North Alabama Industrial Development Association; Tennessee Valley Authority; Chamber of commerce of Huntsville/Madison County; United Technologies Corporation, and Alliant Techsystems. In a separate determination, I found that the events meet the requirements of “widely attended gatherings” as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2) and those whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors may accept free attendance.

Many of the event sponsors are contractor companies or associations whose members are comprised of such companies that are currently involved in aeronautics programs and contractual matters relating to NASA. Some NASA personnel attending this event have duties that may substantially affect the interests of the event sponsors. These personnel are similarly situated in that they each have senior institutional or project responsibilities that could significantly influence current or future matters with these entities.

I have determined that free attendance of these senior institutional and project leaders at the various events is in the interests of the Agency because it will further Agency programs and operations. The events allow discussions regarding NASA’s Vision and its current and future aerospace programs with a wide variety of domestic and international partners. The events will help to raise NASA’s profile in the international community and will support NASA’s statutory mandate to disseminate information concerning its activities.

¹ Personnel include Dr. Jaiwon Shin, Associate Administrator, Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD); Mr. Thomas Irvine, Deputy Associate Administrator, ARMD; Mr. Michael Hetle, Executive Officer to the Associate Administrator, ARMD; and Dr. Anthony Strazisar, Acting Director, Fundamental Aeronautics Program, ARMD.

The total per-person cost for the three events combined is estimated at around \$300. Given the purpose of the events, the unique opportunity the events provide to communicate with the international and domestic aerospace communities, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of these events considering the foreign location, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these senior institutional and project leaders attend the events outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Rebecca Gilchrist at (202) 358-2072.


for Adam F. Greenstone