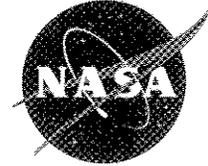


National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



November 2, 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-128
Astronaut Crew Reception on November 4, 2009

On November 4, 2009, co-sponsors, Lockheed Martin, ATK, Honeywell, SAIC, Boeing, Harris, and United Space Alliance, will host a reception at the Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-369, in Washington, DC, from 6:00p.m-8:00p.m.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of approximately 500 representatives of NASA, the aerospace industry, Congress and their staffers, trade associations, academia, and media. The cost of the reception will be approximately \$28.00 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 provide NASA employees with the opportunity to discuss the space shuttle mission and other NASA programs with representatives of the communities participating in the reception.

Accordingly, NASA employees who have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the 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 Executive Order 13490, requires signing the ethics pledge may only attend if they reimburse the sponsors the cost of the reception for themselves and any accompanying guest.

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 these caps.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone