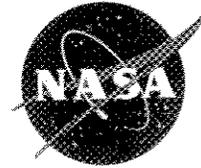


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



November 9, 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-129 Pre-Launch Reception hosted by NASA Johnson Space Center, NASA Langley Research Center, NASA Stennis Space Center, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, CSC, STC, and Tessada on November 15, 2009

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

NASA invitees, accompanied by their spouse or a guest, may attend a pre-launch reception co-hosted by NASA Johnson Space Center, NASA Langley Research Center, NASA Stennis Space Center, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, CSC, STC, and Tessada at the Doubletree Hotel Cocoa Beach, Florida, on Sunday, November 15, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This event is to be held in conjunction with the launch of STS-129, at the Kennedy Space Center.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of approximately 300 representatives of government, the aerospace industry and the community. 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. This event will provide NASA employees the opportunity to discuss the mission, the shuttle program, and other NASA space programs with interested community and aerospace industry representatives.

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 Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, CSC, STC, or Tessada are not covered in this determination and should seek a determination pursuant to 5 CFR 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding their participation in these events from their local ethics counselor.

Moreover, NASA employees who are in non-career positions in which Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge may only attend if they reimburse the sponsors the cost of the reception for themselves and any accompanying guest.


for Adam F. Greenstone