



August 30, 2010

Reply to Attn of: 140

TO: Distribution

FROM: 140/Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Widely Attended Gathering Determination Regarding Refreshments at the Supply Chain Quality Assurance Conference and Attendance at the Space Industry Supplier Social

Between October 20 and 22, 2010, NASA will hold the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual NASA Supply Chain Quality Assurance Conference at GSFC. During the conference, Mantech International Corporation, Honeywell Technology Solutions, Inc., IBM, Boeing, and L3Com have offered to sponsor refreshments for attendees. In addition, these same firms are sponsoring the Space Industry Supplier Social on October 20, 2010. Both events will be held at the Goddard Space Flight Center.

Approximately 200 people are expected to attend the events, representing NASA, other Federal agencies, industry, and academia. The estimated cost per person is \$40. The conference will include presentations by the President of the Aerospace Corporation on innovations in assuring mission success, panel sessions on space industrial base trends and challenges, and a business process management seminar. Invited guest speakers include NASA Chief Engineer, Michael Ryschkewitsch and Orlando Figueroa, Deputy Director for Science and Technology, NASA GSFC.

Attendance at the conference and social will allow NASA employees an opportunity to discuss innovation and mission success as it relates to the NASA supply chain with the other attendees. I therefore conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending these events outweighs any concern that attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Based on the above, I find that the events meet the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR 2635.204(g). Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors identified above may accept free attendance to and/or refreshments at the events for themselves and their guests.

NASA employees whose duties substantially affect Mantech International corporation or any of the other sponsors noted above, for instance by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination regarding participation in these events from their local ethics counselor.



Robert M. Stephens