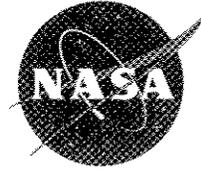


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Langley Research Center
100 NASA Road
Hampton, VA 23681-2199



September 8, 2010

Reply to Attn of: 141/Office of Chief Counsel

To: Distribution

From: Chief Counsel

Subject: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the National Institute of Aerospace Aviation Unleashed Conference Receptions on Monday, October 18 and Tuesday, October 19, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hampton Convention Center, Hampton, Virginia

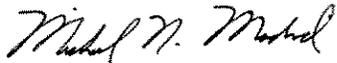
The National Institute of Aerospace (NIA) is sponsoring two receptions from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the evenings of October 18 and 19, 2010, at the Hampton Convention Center in Hampton, Virginia. The receptions will take place in conjunction with the Aviation Unleashed Conference during a conference demonstration on Monday the 18th and during a questions session on Tuesday the 19th. The purpose of each reception is to allow government, academia, industry, and small business representatives involved in the aviation and aeronautics community to interact, engage each other in question and answers sessions on aviation issues, and discuss aviation demonstrations, aviation technology, and the future of aviation. I have determined it to be in the best interest of the government for those invited NASA employees to attend this event in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The reception will be a gathering of federal government, state government, academia, and aviation and aeronautics industry and small business representatives with a diversity of interests in aviation research and technology and in the future of aviation. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. The estimated value of an invitation to the reception is approximately \$20.00. All of the approximately 300-500 expected conference attendees are invited. In accordance with 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g), and 14 C.F.R. §1207.103, I find that the event meets the definition of a "widely attended gathering."

I further find that there is an Agency interest in having NASA employees who are invited to attend the receptions because they will have the opportunity to further Agency programs and operations through discussing NASA's work in aviation and aeronautics, discussing the future of aviation, and engaging in the exchange of views and information between public officials, academia, and aviation industry representatives who have an interest in NASA's aeronautics and aviation missions and the future of aviation in general.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the NIA or a majority or all of its members, may accept an invitation for free attendance at the reception. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests.

NASA employees in non-career positions for which the Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge may only attend if they reimburse the event sponsors the cost of the reception for themselves and accompanying guests. Additionally, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the NIA, for instance by way of procurement responsibilities or through making decisions to partner with NIA on projects should seek an individual determination from their ethics counselor, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i), regarding participation in this event.



Michael N. Madrid
Deputy DAEO