

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Kennedy Space Center
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899

June 30, 2011



CC-A

Reply to Attn of:

TO: Distribution

FROM: CC/Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Attendance at the Return of the Dragon Reception Sponsored by SpaceX

On July 7, 2011, SpaceX will host a "Return of the Dragon" reception to welcome back the Dragon spacecraft to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The event will be held at the Air Force Space and Missile Museum in Cape Canaveral, FL from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. More than 100 guests have been invited to attend. These guests include corporate and industry executives and workers, members of academia, military leaders, aerospace contractors, representatives of Federal, state, and local government, members of the public, media representatives, and NASA personnel. The approximate value of the reception is \$15 per person for the food and beverages.

I find this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in NASA personnel attending the event. This event will allow NASA employees to discuss NASA programs with the other attendees. In addition, this event is a forum for the attendees to disseminate information on NASA's ongoing activities and to discuss matters of interest to NASA with a diverse group.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsor may accept an invitation for complimentary attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsor, 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 the Chief Counsel's Office. NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which Executive Order 13490 requires the signing of an ethics pledge may attend only if they make arrangements with the sponsor to reimburse the cost of their attendance and any accompanying spouse or guest.

In addition, guests will be able to choose 1-2 items from a selection of t-shirts, hats, pens, patches, ear buds and digital clocks, provided by SpaceX. The total value of any two items is less than \$20. 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. Accordingly, in addition to accepting free attendance at the event, NASA employees may accept these items for themselves and guests. NASA invitees are reminded not to exceed the \$50 cap on gifts from one source in a calendar year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Swanson".

for

Jerald D. Stubbs
Agency Designee