

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, MD 20771



September 23, 2011

Reply to Attn of: 140

TO: Distribution

FROM: 140/Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Widely Attended Gathering Determination Regarding Attendance
at the Maryland Science Center Laser Light Exhibit September 25, 2011

The Space Science Telescope Institute, the European Space Agency, AURA and the Maryland Science Center will host a reception and presentation entitled "FROM THE DISTANT PAST," a laser light exhibit at the Maryland Science Center. This event will occur on Sunday, September 25, 2011, and will include a reception and laser presentation featuring an artistic presentation of art and science in a visual representation of light from distant galaxies observed by the Hubble Space Telescope. The presentation will be made by German artist Tim Otto Roth, and it will be the first time it is presented in the United States. Approximately 100 people from NASA, other Federal agencies, universities, and industry are expected to attend. The estimated cost per person is approximately \$45. Attendance at the reception and program will allow NASA employees a chance to discuss issues affecting the science community with other attendees from other Federal agencies, universities, and industry.

Based on the above, I find that the September 25, 2011 event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering," as defined in 5 CFR 2635.204(g). I further find that there is an Agency interest in having NASA employees attend these events. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the Space Science Institute, AURA or the European Space Agency may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception and program.

NASA employees whose duties substantially affect the Space Science Institute, AURA or the European Space Agency, 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