

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001

May 31, 2012



General Law Practice Group

Reply to Attn of: TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at a Cocktail Reception sponsored by Lufthansa and the Boeing Company on June 1, 2012

A reception sponsored by Lufthansa and the Boeing Company, will be held in the Hay-Adams Hotel in Washington, D.C. on June 1, 2012, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The purpose of this event is to celebrate the inaugural flight of the new 747-8 by Lufthansa.

Approximately 600 people have been invited to this reception. Expected attendees include representatives from the aerospace industry and other commercial customers and suppliers, trade associations, non-profit policy research organizations, and diplomats. This event will include refreshments valued at approximately \$100 per person. 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 attend the event, as they will have the opportunity to provide information about current NASA programs and exchange views with other attendees representing various communities and sectors. Accordingly, NASA employees – other than non-career employees who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 – who have been invited may accept free attendance. They may also accept an invitation for their accompanying spouse or guest.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsors, 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 their local ethics counselor. Moreover, NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which they are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, and their accompanying spouses or guests, may only attend the reception if they reimburse the sponsors a good faith estimate of the value of the refreshments consumed by themselves and an accompanying spouse or guest.

The sponsors will also distribute a Boeing model airplane valued at \$26. NASA employees who wish to accept this gift are required to pay the sponsors \$26 for each model accepted during the reception. An “Honor Basket” will be provided by the sponsors at the event to facilitate payment.


Adam F. Greenstone