

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



August 21, 2012

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at the Welcome Reception hosted by United Launch Alliance (ULA) on August 21, 2012

On August 21, 2012, United Launch Alliance (ULA) will host a reception for the Radiation Belt Storm Probes launch. The event will be held from 5 PM to 7 PM, at the Radisson at the Port Convention Center, 8701 Astronaut Blvd., in Cape Canaveral, FL. Approximately 800 guests have been invited to attend. These guests include industry executives, members of academia and congressional staff. The approximate value of the reception is \$25.00 per person.

This event will provide NASA employees an opportunity to discuss the mission and other NASA programs with representatives of the communities. 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 further agency programs and operations through the exchange of views and information with other attendees.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsor, may accept an invitation for themselves and an invited guest for free attendance to the event. However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event 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 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 may only attend the reception if they reimbursement the sponsor the cost of the refreshments consumed for themselves and accompanying guests.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone