

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 14, 2013

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance at the International Astronautical Federation's (IAF) Annual Spring Meeting and Cocktail Reception on March 19, 2013

On March 19, 2013, the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) will host a cocktail reception in conjunction with its Spring Meeting at the Congress Center Cap 15, in Paris, France. IAF is a non-governmental, nonprofit, membership organization, based in Paris, France. The IAF encourages the advancement of knowledge about space and the development and application of space assets for the benefit of humanity. It disseminates information and provides a significant worldwide network of experts in the development and utilization of space.

The reception will be widely attended by representatives from other Federal agencies, foreign space agencies, the space industry, international organizations, and IAF Committee members and volunteers. Approximately, 400 individuals are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the dinner, which includes all food and beverages, is \$45 Euros per person. I find that 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 having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. This event will allow NASA employees the opportunity to discuss space-related issues and NASA programs with other attendees.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsor, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, 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.

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 (and no more than \$50 from one source in a calendar year). NASA invites should not accept any gift items distributed at the reception, which exceed the \$20 cap.



Adam F. Greenstone