

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



September 25, 2015

General Law Practice Group

Reply to Attn of:

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance at the Congressional Prize Caucus Launch Reception related to the Congressional Prize Caucus' XPRIZE Competition on October 6, 2015

Representatives from NASA have been invited to attend a reception on October 6, 2015, in conjunction with the Congressional Prize Caucus' XPRIZE Competition hosted by XPrize Foundation and U.S. Representatives Randall M. Hultgren and Daniel W. Lipinski. The reception will be held in the Rayburn House Office Building, Room B338, in Washington, D.C. at 6:30 p.m. Approximately 100 people have been invited, to include Congressional members and their staff, representatives from other U.S. Government agencies, state and local government officials, representatives from industry, and academia. The approximate cost per person is \$15.00.

I find that this event meets the requirement of a widely attended gathering as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). Because the content relates to NASA's exploration and technology development objectives, I find that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend. NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance at this event for themselves and a guest. NASA employees, whose duties may substantially affect XPrize Foundation, 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 ethics counselor.

NASA employees who are in non-career positions in which the President's Executive Order of January 21, 2009, requires signing an ethics pledge, may only attend this event if they reimburse the hosts the cost of the reception.

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).

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

Adam F. Greenstone