

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



September 16, 2016

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Agency Counsel for Ethics

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the briefing and panel discussion, "Humans to Mars: Why, How, and When" on September 20.

On September 20, 2016, Explore Mars, Inc., a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host a special briefing/panel discussion entitled, "Humans to Mars: Why, How, and When," at the Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2325, in Washington D.C., at 10:00 a.m.. Boeing is sponsoring the event. Panelists include John Grunsfeld, Darby Cooper, Rob Chambers, Kent Rominger, and Joe Cassady.

Approximately 75-100 people have been invited to attend. The estimated cost of the event, including all food and beverages, is \$10-15 per person. The event will be attended by Congressional members and staff, NASA personnel, academia, and industry representatives.

Explore Mars, Inc. is in control of the planning and table seating. I find that the 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. Attendance at the event will allow NASA representatives to exchange views and ideas with others in attendance. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect Explore Mars, Inc. – including NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which they are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 – may accept an invitation from Explore Mars, Inc. for themselves and a guest for free attendance to the event.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the Explore Mars, Inc., or its members, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

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

Adam F. Greenstone