

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



**Headquarters**  
Washington, DC 20546-0001

October 26, 2015 Revised

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance at the Explore Mars, Inc. Reception related to the First Landing Site/Exploration Zone Workshop on October 29, 2015

Explore Mars, Inc, a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, is hosting a reception on October 29, 2015, in Houston, Texas. The reception is also sponsored by the Lunar and Planetary Institute, Aerojet Rocketdyne and Boeing. The reception will provide the participants of the workshop an opportunity to discuss, in an informal setting, topics related to NASA's exploration programs and plans. Explore Mars, Inc. is in charge of the organization, planning and extended invitations to all personnel attending the reception. The reception will take place at the Lunar and Planetary Institute at 5:00 p.m. The value of the reception, to include all food and beverages, is \$40 per person. Approximately 150 people are expected to attend, including personnel from NASA, academia, other federal agencies, and representatives from industry.

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 host may accept an invitation for free attendance at this event for themselves. Accordingly, 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 accept a free invitation to attend the reception for themselves.

However, NASA employees, whose duties may substantially affect the host, 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.

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

Adam F. Greenstone