National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

September 30, 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 FedScoop 50 Awards Dinner on October 4, 2016

On October 4, 2016, FedScoop 50 will host a reception at the Hay Adams Hotel in Washington, DC at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for discussion on new technologies and strategies to make government more innovative, agile and effective.

Approximately 200 people are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the event, which includes all food and beverages, is $20.00 per person. The FedScoop 50 will organize and plan the event and will be in control of the seating. The event will be attended by personnel from other Federal agencies, and other executives. 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 and operations. 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 the FedScoop 50 or a majority of its members – 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 the FedScoop 50 for free attendance to the event.

Moreover, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the FedScoop 50 or a majority of its members, such as by way of procurement duties, 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.

Kathleen T. Spear

for Adam F. Greenstone