National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

May 24, 2013

General Law Practice Group

Reply to Attn of:

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Attendees at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics National Capital Section (AIAA NCS) Awards Banquet on June 6, 2013

On June 6, 2013, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics National Capital Section (AIAA NCS), a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host its Awards Banquet. The guest speaker will be Dr. John Grunsfeld, Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate at NASA.

The event will take place at Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA, from 6 PM to 9 PM. Approximately 60-80 people are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the event including all food and beverages is $20.00 per person. The event will be attended by state and local officials, representatives of the aerospace industry, members from non-profit organizations and professional societies, members from academia, NASA personnel, and personnel from other Federal agencies. 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 as it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the event will provide NASA attendees with the opportunity to discuss science and exploration related initiatives with other guests. Accordingly, NASA employees – including non-career appointees required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 – who have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. The host plans to give the NASA guest speaker a thank you gift of either an AIAA coin or a coffee mug (each is valued at less than $20.00). The NASA guest speaker may accept so long as the gift does not exceed $20.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the 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.

Adam F. Greenstone