

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



December 2, 2014

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at the European Space Agency and Space Foundation Luncheon on December 5, 2014

On December 5, 2014, the European Space Agency (ESA) and Space Foundation will host a luncheon at the Rayburn House Office Building, in Washington, D.C., at 12:00 noon. The Space Foundation is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The guest speaker for the luncheon is Professor Mark McCaughrean, Senior Science Advisor, European Space Agency.

Approximately 70 people have been invited to attend, including members of Congress, Congressional Staff, other government officials, representatives from academia and industry, and employees of other Federal agencies. The estimated cost of the luncheon, including all food and beverages, is \$20.00 per person. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding various NASA programs.

NASA employees – including NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which they are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 – whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors or a majority of its members, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event for themselves and any guests.

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 local ethics counselor.

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). We understand that ESA will be distributing ESA pins and posters, the total value of which is under \$10.00.

Kathleen T. Spear

for Adam F. Greenstone