



September 20, 2013

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 events in conjunction with to the 64th International Astronautical Congress in Beijing, China, September 2013

Representatives from NASA have been invited to attend a series of events in conjunction with the 64th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Beijing, China. The IAC is intended to enable representatives from the space industry, space users, space policy makers, students, young professionals, researchers and academicians to meet and exchange experiences and knowledge on space-related topics, and to develop world-wide cooperation programs. The IAC is the largest annual event organized by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), a non-governmental, non-profit membership organization, based in Paris, France. The Congress is hosted by one of the IAF's member countries, which forms a local organizing committee. The events are as follows:

1. Closing Gala Dinner for the Space Generation Congress (SGC), September 21, 2013: The Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), a foreign, 501(c)(3) non-profit under the umbrella of the United Nations, will host a dinner at the Grand Mansion restaurant, 11 Xi Cui Lu Hai Dian Qu, Beijing, China, at 7:15 p.m. Lockheed Martin is providing financial support for this dinner, although SGAC has organized the event and determined the seating arrangements. The dinner signifies the end of the Space Generation Congress, a conference focused on space topics taking place the week prior to the IAC. Approximately 200 people are expected to attend the dinner. Expected attendees include representatives from NASA, international university students, space young professionals, industry representatives, space agencies representatives, space organizations and academia representatives. The dinner will include food and beverages valued at approximately \$47 per person (35 €).
2. International Astronautical Association (IAA) Gala Dinner, September 22, 2013: The IAA, a non-governmental organization, will be sponsoring an awards dinner and induction ceremony for new members at the Beijing Intercontinental Hotel, 8 Beichen West Road, Chaoyang District, 100105 Beijing, China, at 6:30 p.m. Approximately 140 people have been invited. Attendees will include representatives from NASA, industry, foreign governments, and the heads of space agencies. The dinner will include food and beverages valued at approximately \$128 per person (95 €).
3. VIP Welcome Coffee, September 23, 2013: The IAF and the Chinese Society of Astronautics, a national, non-governmental academic organization, will host a Coffee

Reception to welcome high-level international conference attendees at the China National Convention Center, 4th Floor North Lobby, in Beijing, China, from 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., September 23, 2013. The cost of the event will be approximately \$20-\$27 per person (15-20 €). Approximately 350 people have been invited to the event including representatives from NASA, heads of foreign space agencies and other international dignitaries.

4. Heads of Agencies (HoA) Plenary Preparatory Lunch, September 23, 2013: The IAF and the Chinese Society of Astronautics will host a luncheon at the China National Convention Center, Room 206B, Beijing, China, from 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m., September 23, 2013. The cost of the event will be approximately \$47 per person (35 €). Approximately 15 people have been invited to the event including the heads of space agencies and the event moderator to discuss the preparation of the following Heads of Agencies Plenary Event. Mr. Karlheinz Kreuzberg, Head of the Director General's Cabinet, ESA, will be in charge of the seating.
5. Reception and Official Launch for IAC 2014, September 25, 2013: Lockheed Martin Corporation and the IAC 2014 Toronto Local Organizing Committee, a group of Canadian local government and business representatives, will host a Launch Reception for the IAC 2014 that will take place in Toronto. The reception will be at the Banquet Hall, InterContinental Hotel in Beijing, China, on September 25, 2013. The cost of the event will be approximately \$90 per person. Approximately 200 people have been invited to the event including representatives from NASA, heads of foreign space agencies and other international dignitaries. Seating will be available; however, there are no assigned seats.

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g) and 14 C.F.R. § 1207.103, I find that the events listed above meet the definition of a “widely attended gathering.” I further find that there is an Agency interest in having NASA employees attend the events, as they will have the opportunity to further Agency programs and operations through the exchange of views and information with other attendees.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsor may accept an invitation for themselves and an invited guest for free attendance to the events. However, NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 may only attend the IAC 2014 Reception on September 25 if they reimburse the sponsor the cost of the refreshments consumed for themselves and accompanying guests.

Furthermore, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsors listed above 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 the events 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). NASA invitees should not accept any gift items distributed at the reception, which exceed the \$20 cap, though non-career NASA employees

may not accept gift items under the \$20 exception at events where ethics pledge restrictions apply as explained above.

Kathleen T. Spear

for Adam F. Greenstone