National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**Headquarters**
Washington, DC 20546-0001

September 26, 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 Events Related to the 65th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Toronto, Canada, September 27-30, 2014, and at the Other Events Occurring Canada

Representatives from NASA have been invited to attend a series of events in conjunction with the 65th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) at the Metro Toronto Convention Center, in Toronto, Canada. 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. Dinner for the Space Generation Congress (SGC), September 27, 2014: 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 Ontario Science Center, Toronto, Canada at 7:30 p.m. Lockheed Martin Space Systems is providing financial support for this dinner, although invitations are determined by SGAC. The dinner signifies the end of the Space Generation Congress, a conference focused on space topics taking place the week prior to the IAC. The NASA Administrator, Charles F. Bolden, Jr. will be the keynote speaker at the event. Approximately 200 people are expected to attend the dinner. Expected attendees include representatives from NASA, foreign government Agencies, foreign government officials, industry representatives, academia, SGC delegates, and members of the public. The dinner will include food and beverages valued at approximately $100 per person.

2. Young Professionals Program (YPP) Program Committee, September 28, 2014: Aerospace Corporation will sponsor a welcome reception in the Metro Toronto Convention Center at 7:00 p.m. This event will provide networking opportunities for young space professionals. Approximately 250 people are expected to attend, including the younger representatives from governments, NASA personnel and other Federal agencies, industry, academia, students, media, and foreign nationals. The cost of food and refreshments is approximately $35 per person.

3. Young Professionals Program (YPP) Program Committee, October 1, 2014: Lockheed Martin will be hosting a reception at the Metro Toronto Convention Center at 7:00 p.m. Approximately 300 people have been invited. The event will give young professionals attending the IAC Toronto a chance to meet each other and network. The cost per person is approximately $35 per person. Attendees will include representatives from NASA and all registered young professionals from around the world attending the event.

4. Bremen Reception, October 1, 2014: Center of Applied Space Technology Microgravity (ZARM) will be hosting a reception at the Horizons Restaurant at 5:30 p.m. in conjunction with the presentation of the Bremen Bid for hosting IAC 2017. The cost per person is approximately $58.50 per person. Approximately 150 people are expected to attend, including representatives from NASA members of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), representatives from academia, industry and the Bremen government.

5. Canadian Club Luncheon, October 2, 2014: Canadian Club of Ottawa will be sponsoring a luncheon at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, Canada at 12:00 p.m. Approximately 1300 people have been invited. The cost per person is approximately $25-35 per person. Attendees will include representatives from NASA, government officials from Canada, representatives from the public service of Canada, industry, and other interested parties. The NASA Administrator will be speaking at the event.

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."

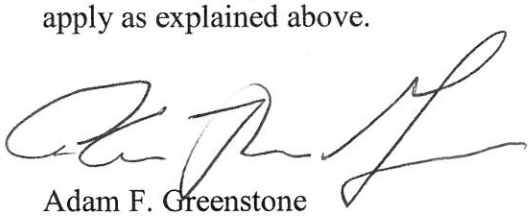
I further find that there is an agency interest in having NASA employees attend the events, as they will have the opportunity to further agency programs and operations through the exchange of views and information with other attendees. Accordingly, NASA employees who have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests.

However, 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.

Moreover, NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which they are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 may only attend the receptions if they reimburse the sponsors the cost of the refreshments consumed for themselves and accompanying guests. They may only attend the reception sponsored by Lockheed Martin on October 1, 2014 if they reimburse the sponsor for the cost of the reception. They may, however, attend the SGAC Dinner on September 27, the Aerospace Corporation Reception on September 28, 2014, the Bremen Dinner on October 1, and the Canadian Club Luncheon on October 2 for free. In addition, the Administrator may accept free attendance at the events at which they are speaking.

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.



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