

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



August 9, 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 LADEE Launch Reception hosted by Orbital Sciences Corporation on September 6, 2013.

On or about September 5, 2013, Orbital Sciences Corporation (Orbital) will host a reception at the Chincoteague Community Center in Chincoteague, Virginia, from 6 PM to 8 PM. This event will be a pre-launch reception for all invited guests to the launch of the NASA Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE) mission on a Minotaur V launch vehicle from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia.

Approximately 1,900 guests have been invited to attend. Invitees include representatives of the U.S. legislative branch, state and local government organizations, industry, academia, and personnel from other Federal agencies. The cost of the event, which includes all food and refreshments, will be approximately \$27.00 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 free attendance at the above mentioned event is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. Attendance at this event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding various NASA programs. Accordingly, NASA employees (subject to the exceptions noted below) 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 event sponsor, such as by way of contracting 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. Moreover, NASA employees who are in non-career positions in which Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge may only attend if they reimburse the sponsors the value of the event and any gift items accepted for themselves and any accompanying guest.

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 Orbital will be distributing a Mission patch & decal, a moon stress ball, a commemorative t-shirt, and a commemorative coin with a total value under \$20.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone