

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



January 3, 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 Antares Orb-1 Launch Events hosted by Orbital Sciences Corporation on or around January 8, 2014

On launch day, currently anticipated to be on or around January 8, 2014, Orbital Sciences Corporation (Orbital) is scheduled to launch the Orb-1 Commercial Resupply Service (CRS) Mission on an Antares launch vehicle from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility at Wallops Island, U40, Virginia. The events include a launch day boxed lunch and snacks at the Chincoteague Community Center, a brief post-launch viewing reception for all invited guests at Building U40 at the Wallops Flight Facility, and an evening reception on January 8, 6:00-8:30 p.m., at AJ's on the Creek, 6585 Maddox Blvd, State Route 2113, Chincoteague Island, VA 23336.

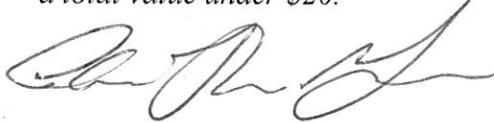
Approximately 1,400 guests have been invited to attend. Invitees include representatives of the U.S. legislative branch, state and local government organizations, industry, academia, and personnel from other Federal agencies. The value of the events, which include all food, refreshments, and on-location transit immediately incident to the viewing location, will be approximately \$49.00 per person (\$32.00 for the evening reception, \$10.00 for the launch day boxed lunch and snacks, and \$7.00 for the post-launch viewing reception). I find that these events meet 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 events are in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. Attendance at these events 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 to these events. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect an 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 these events 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 sponsor the value of the events 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 reusable bag, a mission patch and decal, a swan plushie and a winter cap or headband with a total value under \$20.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam F. Greenstone', written in a cursive style.

Adam F. Greenstone