

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 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 Society of Satellite Professionals International 2014 Gala on March 11, 2014

On Tuesday, March 11, 2014, the Society of Satellite Professionals International (SSPI), a not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, will host its 2014 Gala. The event will be held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NE, Ballroom B/C, Washington, DC, starting with a champagne reception at 6:30 and dinner at 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. The purpose of the event is to provide a networking opportunity for satellite professionals and to honor exceptional individuals and accomplishments within the satellite industry.

SSPI controls the seating of the guests it invites and approximately 800 people are expected to attend overall. Attendees include state and foreign representatives, Congressional members and staffers, state and local officials, personnel from other Federal Agencies, award winners and their guests, and industry representatives. The estimated cost of the event, including all food and beverages, is approximately \$95.00 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 on NASA's programs and policies.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsor, or a majority of its members, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation from the SSPI for free attendance to the event.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsor, or a majority of its members, such as by way of procurement duties, or who receive an invitation from an organization other than the event sponsor, 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.

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

Adam F. Greenstone