National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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April 27, 2015

Reply to Attn of: 30/Office of Chief Counsel

TO: Distribution

FROM: Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Ethics Determination on VASBA Technology Days, May 14-15, 2015

On Thursday and Friday, May 14-15, 2015, the Virginia AeroSpace Business Association (VASBA) is hosting Technology Days at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, VA. VASBA, along with Jacobs Engineering Group and other sponsors, is hosting this event and expects approximately 90 individuals to attend, including state and local officials, community leaders, and representatives of the aerospace industry. This event will include presentations on technology developments in aerodynamic testing, facility management, and collaboration between industry and government. The presentations will be accompanied by refreshments and a lunch on both days, for a total value of about $46 per person.

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g) and 14 C.F.R. §1207.103, I find that the event meets the definition of a "widely attended gathering." I also find that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend this event because it will further agency programs and operations. NASA invitees will have the opportunity to discuss the Administration's activities in Virginia, and exchange information on NASA programs. I further conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that attendance may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees who have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the Technology Days event.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the hosts, and NASA employees who are in non-career positions in which Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge, are not covered by this determination and should seek a determination from their ethics counselor pursuant to 5 CFR 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding their participation in these events.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Kenneth Goetzke, at 757-864-7390.

W. T. McMurry

William T. McMurry
Acting Chief Counsel and
Deputy Designated Agency Ethics Official