

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



Mary W. Jackson Building NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

March 16, 2022

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at SpaceX Axiom Space-1 Axiom Mission-1 Launch Events hosted by Axiom Space on or around March 30, 2022

Axiom Space is scheduled to launch the SpaceX Axiom Space-1 Axiom Mission-1 on a Falcon 9 Crew Dragon Endeavour launch vehicle from NASA's Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy Space Center, Florida, currently scheduled for approximately March 30, 2022. The event includes food and beverages at the launch viewing site in OSB II.

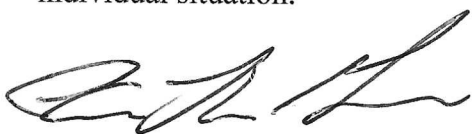
Approximately 250 guests have been invited to attend. Invitees include members of the legislative branch, state and local government officials, foreign government diplomatic personnel, industry representatives, academia, personnel from other Federal agencies, and media. The value of the event, which includes all food and refreshments, will be approximately \$100 per person. I find that this 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 for themselves and a guest to this event.

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 this event from their local ethics counselor. Moreover, NASA employees who are in non-career positions in which Executive Order 13989 requires signing an ethics pledge may only accept the food and beverages, if they reimburse the sponsor the value of the event¹ and any gift items accepted for themselves and their guest.

¹ Employees may accept free attendance at an event in which they are scheduled speakers pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.203(b)(8)(i).

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 Axiom Space will be distributing a gift bag which contains an Axiom t-shirt (\$13.42), mask (\$5.75), Axiom sticker, hat (\$19.50), duffle bag (\$14.20), Axiom patch, SpaceX shirt (\$28.00), keychain (\$3.50), and additional stickers, the total value of which under the gift rules is \$84.37. NASA employees may only accept the gift bag and its contents if they reimburse the sponsor the market value of the gift. NASA employees, other than non-career NASA employees who sign the Executive Order 13989 ethics pledge, may accept gifts of the above items from Axiom or SpaceX not totaling more than \$20 per entity, and not exceeding aggregate gifts from that entity of \$50 in 2022, if they are separately distributed. All NASA employees may accept a gift of the stickers and patches if they are separately distributed. Attendees are reminded to exercise any COVID-19 precautions appropriate to their individual situation.

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

Adam F. Greenstone