

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

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



August 31, 2023

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Agency Counsel for Ethics

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at Aerospace  
Industries Association (AIA) Reception on September 7, 2023

On September 7, 2023, Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) being designated as a not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, will hold a Congressional Space Reception at the Kennedy Caucus Room, Constitution Ave., NE, Washington DC, 20002, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. AIA will be in control of the planning, organizing, and issuing invitations for this event.

Approximately 150 - 200 people are expected to attend the event. Attendees will have a diversity of views or interests and will include personnel from other federal agencies, members of the legislative branch, state and local government officials, representatives from academia, industry, and foreign entities. The estimated cost of the event, including all food and beverages, is approximately \$20.00 per person. Attendance at this event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding various NASA programs. 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 provide an opportunity for the invited persons to exchange ideas and views pertaining to NASA's policies, programs, and operations. NASA employees who do not have a significant role in a matter affecting the interests of the sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance for themselves and a guest to the event. In those circumstances, I find that the Agency's interest in attendance outweighs any concern that the individual may be, or may appear to be, improperly influenced in the performance of their duties.

However, NASA employees who have a significant role in any pending matter affecting the interests of the sponsors, such as procurement duties, program management, or negotiating or administering a Space Act Agreement, should seek a separate determination from their local ethics counselor as to whether they may accept the invitation.

Additionally, NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13989 may only accept the invitation if they reimburse the hosts the fair market value of the events.

Adam F. Greenstone