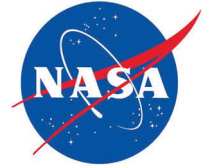


National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000



DRAFT

Reply to Attn of: ARC-DL

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: Dan Hymer/DL

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at the Reception Hosted by Exolaunch Inc. on August 7, 2024

On August 7, 2024, Exolaunch Inc. will host a reception celebrating their success with industry at the SmallSat Conference located at 710 West 200 North, Hyde Park, UT 84318, from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm.

Approximately 175 people are expected to attend the event. Attendees will have a diversity of views or interests and will include members from academia, industry representatives, NASA personnel, media, contractors, and other federal agencies. The reception is anticipated to provide a forum for various discussions on topics related to Exolaunch's success as well as current and future aerospace missions. The estimated value of the food at the event is approximately \$30 per person. The Exolaunch Inc. is in control of all the arrangements and invitations for the event and are hosting this event independently, including independent funding.

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 Exolaunch Inc. may accept an invitation for free attendance for themselves to the Reception. 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 in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13989, may only attend the event if they reimburse the sponsor the value of the event.

Additionally, NASA employees who have a significant role in any pending matter affecting the interests of Exolaunch Inc., such as procurement duties, program management, or negotiating or administering a Space Act Agreement, are not covered by this determination. Those employees should seek a separate determination from this office to determine whether or not they may accept the invitation pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(3)(i).

DANIEL
HYMER

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DANIEL HYMER
Date: 2024.08.06
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Dan Hymer
Acting Chief Counsel, Ames Research Center