

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



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September 13, 2024

Reply to Attn of: 30/Office of General Counsel

TO: Distribution

FROM: Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Ethics Determination Regarding NASA Employee Attendance at the Hampton Roads Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (HR AUVSI) Symposium, October 2-3, 2024, and the HR AUVSI and Virginia Aerospace Business Association (VASBA) Advanced Air Mobility Exposition (AAM) and Gala, October 3, 2024

On October 2-3, 2024, the Hampton Roads Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (HR AUVSI), will host an Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Symposium. The Symposium will be at the Marriott City Center in Newport News, VA.

Additionally, on October 3, 2024, the HR AUVSI and the Virginia Aerospace Business Association (VASBA), will host a Gala at the Marriott City Center in Newport News, VA.

At both of these events, the organizers expect approximately 200 people to attend, including invited NASA employees, military and civilian employees of other agencies, aerospace companies, government support contractors, educators, state and local community leaders, and state elected officials.

The Symposium events will include speakers, panel discussions and exhibitions, and will include a networking reception at the Marriott City Center prior to the Gala, as well as sponsored breaks and lunches, which is valued at \$175 per person. The Gala will consist of drinks, dinner, and musical entertainment, which is valued at \$100 per person.

In addition to the hosts of these events, the sponsors of one or both events will likely include Adaptive Aerospace Group, Inc., Analytical Mechanics Associates, Analytical Services & Materials, Inc., Booz Allen Hamilton, Jacobs Technology, Psionic LLC, SAIC, Inc., Sierra Lobo, Science Systems and Applications, Inc., and Science & Technology Corp.

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g) and 14 C.F.R. §1207.103, I find that both of these events meet the definition of a “widely attended gathering.” I also find that there is an Agency interest in having invited NASA personnel attend these events, as it will further Agency programs and interests. NASA invitees will have the opportunity to discuss the

Administration's activities, 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 NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties.

At the Gala, others in attendance will generally be accompanied by a guest. Accordingly, NASA employees who have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the reception for themselves and one invited guest.

NASA employees who have a significant role in any pending sensitive matter that will substantially affect the interests of the host and sponsors, and NASA employees who have non-career political appointments, are not covered by this determination and should seek a separate determination from their ethics counselor regarding their participation in this event.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Sara Rathgeber at sara.m.rathgeber@nasa.gov or 757-864-4301.

Andrea Z. Warmbier
Chief Counsel and
Deputy Ethics Official