National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812

October 22, 2026

Reply to Attn of: LS01 (AMM)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/Pamela A. Bourque

SUBJECT: Approval for NASA Employees with Senior Institutional and Program Responsibilities to Attend the 38th Annual Dr. Wernher von Braun Memorial Dinner

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Several NASA employees who have senior institutional and program responsibilities have been invited to attend the Dr. Wernher von Braun Memorial Dinner.[1] This Dinner is scheduled for October 28, 2026, at the Von Braun Center, Saturn Hall in Huntsville, Alabama.

The Dinner is sponsored by The National Space Club, Presenting Sponsor SAIC, and several corporate sponsors.[2] The National Space Club (NSC) was founded on October 4, 1957, to

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[1] NASA Administrator, Associate Administrator; Deputy Administrator; Deputy Associate Administrator; Associate Administrator for Science; Special Assistant to the Deputy Administrator; Deputy Associate Administrator for Management; Associate Administrator for Procurement; Deputy Associate Administrator Office of Procurement; Associate Administrator for Science; OCIO Acting Chief Data Analyst; Associate Deputy Administrator for Moon to Mars Program; Deputy Associate Administrator for Exploration Systems Mission; Associate Administrator for OLIA; NASA Associate Administrator for Communications; Artemis Program Manager; Artemis III Chief Engineer; Artemis III Lead Systems Engineer; Manager, Academia International Partnerships; Associate Engineering Project Manager; Chief Engineer for Space Nuclear propulsion; Deputy Associate Administrator for Human Spaceflight Mission; Deputy Competition Advocate; Director of Propulsion Systems; Director Space Reaction Division Research and Technology Mission; Director Workplace Collaboration Services; Director, Engineering Directorate; Director, Mars Campaign Office; ER Division Chief; EV Director; Moon to Mars Deputy Associate Administrator; Moon Base Executive.

MSFC Officials: Center Director; Deputy Director; Associate Director; Associate Director, Technical;
Center Strategy Lead; PACE Deputy Director; Space Policy Detailee; Director Office of Center Operations; Chief Information Officer; Chief Technologist; Director of Safety & Mission Assurance; Human Landing System Program Manager and Deputy Program Manager; Deputy Manager for Human Exploration Development; Deputy Manager of Space Systems; Director, Propulsion Systems Department; Deputy Director of Spacecraft & Vehicle Systems Department; Manager and Deputy Manager, Science & Technology; Director of Engineering Directorate; Acting Deputy Director of Engineering; Director, Materials Lab; Legislative Affairs Officer; Deputy Manager, PP & C; Director SE Regional Office of STEM; Deputy Project Manager NEXUS;
Space Launch Systems Officers; Manager, Deputy Manager, Associate Program Manager, Chief Engineer, Chief of Staff; Manager, Planning & Control Office; Manager, Stages Office; Manager, Exploration Upper Stage; Manager, Liquid Engines.

JSC, Center Director; GRC, Center Director.

[2] Platinum sponsors are Amentum, Deloitte, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman. Reception sponsors are BLUSTAQ, COLSA, and ULA. Gold Sponsors are Aerospace, Akima, ASRC Federal, Barrios, Boeing, Blue Origin, CACI, L3Harris, Leidos, Space X, Teledyne Brown Engineering, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, and UAH Propulsion Research Center.
Silver Sponsors are Arcarithm, ARES, Astrion, Auburn University, BAE Systems, Bastion Technologies, Battelle, BRPH, Capstone Research, CORVID, Cepeda, Draper, Emerald City Initiatives, Entarian, ERT, Ignite, JES Tech, MERC Aerospace, MOOG, MORI, Qualis, SSAI, Stellar Solutions, Tec Masters, URSA Major, and Voyager Space.

stimulate the exchange of ideas and information about rocketry and astronautics, and to promote recognition of U.S. achievements in space. The NSC is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code and does not employee lobbyists. The NSC has both individual and corporate members.

Some NASA employees invited to attend this event presently, or may in the near future, have extensive involvement in matters relating to members of NSC in their pursuit to provide, or as they seek to provide, contractual services to NASA. These personnel are similarly situated in that they each have Senior Institutional or Program responsibilities that could significantly influence current or future contracts for a majority of the NSC's corporate members.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of NSC members, NASA and military employees, aerospace and defense industry contractors, federal, state and local government officials and staff, academia, as well as other community leaders. The event is valued at $200 per person and approximately 1200 people are expected to attend. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2). A space themed novelty gift valued at $10 will also be provided to each guest.

I have determined that free attendance of these senior institutional and program leaders at the event is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of these NASA employees at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with state and local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its programs.

Given the purpose of the event, NASA's interest in it, the broad attendance anticipated, and the reasonable market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these identified employees attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees in the positions identified may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for an accompanying spouse or guest. The employees can also accept the space-themed gift item.

Note that NASA employees supporting active procurements should use care to avoid sitting at corporate tables of entities listed as interested parties in those procurements.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Annette Metcalf at 256-544-0025.

PAMELA BOURQUE
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Pamela A. Bourque
Chief Counsel