National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

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

October 26, 2026

Reply to Attn of: LS01 (AMM)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/Pamela A. Bourque

SUBJECT: Approval for NASA Senior Institutional and Program Employees to Attend the Coalition for Deep Space Exploration Reception

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

Several NASA senior institutional and program employees have been invited to attend the Coalition for Deep Space Exploration (CDSE) Reception (Reception)[1] on the evening prior to the Von Braun Memorial Dinner. The Reception will be held on October 27, 2026, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at Rhythm on Monroe, 700 Monroe St. in Huntsville.

This event is sponsored by the CDSE and its corporate sponsors.[2] The Reception will be a widely attended gathering of aerospace industry members, federal government representatives, local elected officials, academia, and other guests from the community. The cost of refreshments is estimated at $52.50 per person. Approximately 120 people have been invited. I find that the Reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

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.

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[1] NASA Deputy Administrator, MSFC Center Director, Deputy Director, Manager, Human Exploration and Operations Development Office; Manager, Human Landing System Program; Deputy Program Manager, Space Launch Systems Program Office; Legislative Affairs Specialist; and JSC, Deputy Manager, Orion Program.

[2] Aerojet Rocketdyne/L3Harris Technologies; Amentum; Boeing; Lockheed Martin; Northrop Grumman; Axiom Space; Astrion; Bechtel; Collins Aerospace; Futuramic; All Points; AMRO; Barrios Technology; EnerSys; ICF; ION Corporation; I2X Technologies; MRI Technologies; nLogic; U.S. Space & Defense element: Onyx Aerospace; Paragon Space Development Corporation; Standex Engineering Technologies Group; Syensqo; Tayco Engineering; Votaw; Weetech.

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 Reception 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 Reception for themselves and an accompanying spouse or guest.

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