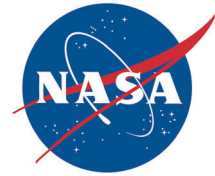


**Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center**

2101 NASA Parkway  
Houston, TX 77058-3696



September 30, 2026

Reply to Attn of:

AL-26-053

TO: Distribution

FROM: AL/Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Widely Attended Gathering Determination Regarding Attendance at VIP  
Reception preceding Artemis II Post-Flight Celebration Event in Houston, Texas

On September 30, 2026, several entities are sponsoring an Artemis II Post-Flight Celebration and VIP reception at the University of Houston Fertitta Center from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The event sponsors include Lockheed Martin, Amentum, Boeing, L3 Harris, Oceaneering, Rocketdyne, Axiom Space, Barrios, AirGas, Atec, Houston Precision Fasteners, Wellby Financial, and the University of Houston. The VIP reception preceding the Celebration Event will be held from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the University of Houston Alumni Center, located next to the Fertitta Center and consists of appetizers and refreshments. From 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, there will be an Artemis II Post-Flight Celebration Event open to the public in University of Houston Fertitta Center consisting of a STEM fair and free community program. The free event is open to the public, the Artemis workforce, and the media. The purpose of the two events together are to share the excitement about NASA's Artemis human spaceflight missions and show highlights from the Artemis II mission - the first crewed flight around the Moon and back since 1972; share appreciation of the workforce that made it all happen; and inspire future generations of NASA scientists, engineers and technicians.

The entities sponsoring the event --Lockheed Martin, Amentum, Boeing, L3Harris, Oceaneering, Rocketdyne, Axiom Space, Barrios, Wellby Financial, and the University of Houston - are all NASA contractors or agreement partners who supported the Artemis Program and share an interest in celebrating NASA's accomplishments and their role in achieving these accomplishments.

The VIP reception preceding the public Artemis II Post-Flight Celebration is invitation only and approximately 200 attendees are expected, including about 20 NASA employees. Attendees will include state and local elected officials, U.S. congressional and senate members and staff, representatives from NASA suppliers and industry team partners, members of academia from state universities, NASA leadership, and Artemis II crew

members. The estimated per-person value for food and refreshments is approximately \$25 and includes food and soft drinks. UH will have a cash bar open for beer and wine purchases. Some guests, including a portion of the NASA guests, will also get VIP parking passes valued at \$10. There are currently no planned gifts or giveaways for attendees at the VIP reception, and no fundraising activities will take place in conjunction with the event. While media are invited to attend the public Artemis II Post-Flight Celebration, they were not invited to attend the VIP reception preceding the Celebration.

This event is of interest to NASA and will serve as a forum for facilitating the widest practicable dissemination of information concerning the Agency and its activities. This event will further agency programs or operations including promoting community relations and providing the opportunity for the exchange of views and information between leaders within the Agency and a variety of academic, business, and leaders within the community. I find that this event meets the requirements of a “widely attended gathering” as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).” The benefits of NASA's attendance outweigh any potential concerns regarding the acceptance of the offered refreshments.

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 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. Additionally, NASA employees who have a significant role in any pending matter affecting the interests of any of the named sponsors, such as procurement duties, program management, or negotiating or administering a Space Act agreement, may accept this invitation for free attendance for themselves to the event. In these 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.

**RANDALL  
SURATT**

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SURATT  
Date: 2026.09.30 14:13:37 -05'00'

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Randall T. Suratt

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