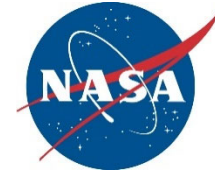


National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Langley Research Center
100 NASA Road
Hampton, VA 23681-2199

October 9, 2026

Reply to Attn of: 30/Office of the General Counsel

TO: Distribution

FROM: Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Ethics Determination Regarding NASA Employee Attendance at 757 TechNite,
October 29, 2026

On October 29, 2026, Innovate Hampton Roads will host the event 757 TechNite at The Dome by Rutter Mills in Virginia Beach, VA.

The organizers expect approximately 500 people to attend the full event, and approximately 175 people to attend the VIP event, including invited NASA employees, aerospace companies, government support contractors, local business and technology leaders, educators, state and local community leaders, and state elected officials.

The event will consist of a reception, cocktails with heavy hors d'oeuvres, networking, musical entertainment, an award program as well as guest speakers, which is valued at \$125.00 per person, or VIP tickets valued at \$500.00 which adds earlier admission to the event, access to the VIP lounge, and additional networking opportunities.

In addition to the host of this event, the sponsors will include JP Morgan Chase, The Hive, The City of Virginia Beach, Bloom Technology Partners, Eide Bailly, Fulton Bank, KPMG, Marathon Consulting, Old Dominion University, REaKTOR Technology Innovation Center, Valor Cybersecurity, Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation and Williams Mullen, P.C., among others.

Invited NASA personnel may accept free attendance in accordance with 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g) and 14 C.F.R. §1207.103, I find that this event meets the definition of a "widely attended gathering." I also find that there is an Agency interest in having invited NASA personnel attend this event, 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 event, others in attendance will generally be accompanied by a guest. Accordingly, NASA employees who have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at this event 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
Warmbier**

Digitally signed by
Andrea Warmbier
Date: 2026.10.09
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Andrea Z. Warmbier
Langley Chief Counsel