

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Mary W. Jackson Building NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



January 16, 2025

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Agency Counsel for Ethics

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at the Maryland Space Business Roundtable (MSBR) Lunch on January 22, 2025

On January 22, 2025, the Maryland Space Business Roundtable (MSBR), a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host a lunch at the Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, MD, starting at 11:30 a.m. The guest speakers are Dr. Aminta Breaux, President, Bowie State University, and Dr. Jelena Srebric, Associate Dean for Research in Mechanical Engineering at UMD and Associate Dean for College of Engineering and IT at UMD Baltimore County.

Approximately 250 people have been invited to attend. Attendees will have a diversity of views or interests and will include representatives from the legislative branch, state and local government officials, representatives from industry, employees of Federal agencies, academia, media and members of the public. The estimated cost of the event, including all food and beverages, is \$45 per person. MSBR is in control of the organizing, planning and invitations for this event. Attendance at this event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding various NASA programs. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will provide an opportunity for the invited persons to exchange ideas and views pertaining to NASA's policies, programs and operations. NASA employees who do not have a significant role in a matter affecting the interests of the sponsor may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event.¹ 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. However, NASA employees who have a significant role in any pending matter affecting the interests of the MSBR, such as procurement duties, program management, or negotiating or administering a Space Act Agreement, should seek a separate determination from their local ethics counselor as to whether they may accept the invitation.

Adam F. Greenstone

¹ Newly appointed non-career employees should consult with their local NASA ethics counselor about whether this determination is implicated by incoming administration rules that could be issued prior to the event.