

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
**Headquarters**  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



June 28, 2004

Reply to Attn of: GG

**TO:** Distribution

**FROM:** G/General Counsel

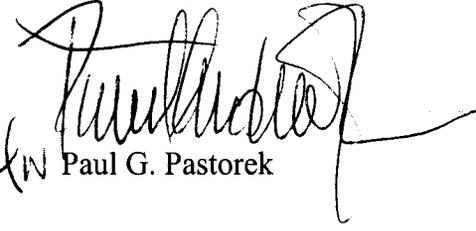
**SUBJECT:** Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the Cassini Reception and Dinner, June 29, 2004

The Director of Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and the California Institute of Technology (CalTech) are hosting a dinner and reception to honor decades of international cooperation in the development and operation of the Cassini-Huygens mission. The event will be held at CalTech's Athenaeum on June 29, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. Approximately 70 people are expected to attend the event. Dinner and refreshments will be served at this event and the cost is approximately \$50 per person. It is believed to be in the best interest of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to this event to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

Launched from Kennedy Space Center on October 15, 1997, the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft will reach the Saturnian region in June 2004. Cassini-Huygens is an international collaboration between three space agencies. Seventeen nations contributed to building the spacecraft. The Cassini orbiter was built and managed by JPL, and the Huygens probe was built by European Space Agency. The Italian Space Agency provided Cassini's high-gain communication antenna. In addition to NASA representatives, attendance at the event will include members of Congress and staffs, representatives from the international partner nations (including the United Kingdom, Italy, France Belgium, the Netherlands, and Sweden), representatives from the national press (including the New York Times, the Washington Post Los Angeles Times, USA Today and the National Geographic), and members of the JPL Executive Counsel.

I find that the event meets the requirements of a widely attended gathering as defined in 5 CFR 635.204(g). Because of NASA's interest in international collaboration and in the important science objectives of the Cassini-Huygens mission after its arrival at Saturn, I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs the concerns that acceptance of the gift (dinner and refreshments) may or may not appear to improperly influence any NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend this event without charge.

  
xw Paul G. Pastorek