

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the
Regents
February 19, 2015

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan
and Michigan Aerospace Corporation

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects while reviewing the Proposal Approval Form which then triggered a review by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflict of interest was then developed and approved by the Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Lennard Fisk is an employee of the University of Michigan ("University"), and a partial owner of Michigan Aerospace Corporation ("MAC"). The law permits such an Agreement provided it is disclosed to the Board of Regents ("Regents") of the University of Michigan and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote.

Background:

Dr. Fisk, a Professor of Space Science in the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Space Science, is a partial owner of a for-profit company called MAC (the "Company"). The Company wishes to fund a Department of Defense – Air Force (prime) STTR Phase II project entitled: "Improved Forecasts of Solar Particle Events using Eruptive Event Generators based on Gibson-Low and Titov-Demoulin Magnetic Configurations," (ORSP# 15-PAF04656) in the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Space Science under the direction of Dr. Igor Sokolov, Research Scientist, Space Physics Research Laboratory, College of Engineering. The purpose of this project is to improve forecasts of solar particle events.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately one (1) year. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$63,367. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes provisions for changes in time, amount, and scope. University procedures for approval of these changes will be followed and additional conflict of interest review will be done as appropriate.

Impact of the Agreement

The Agreement will support an effort by Dr. Sokolov to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources to improve solar forecasting and modeling.

Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. In light of this disclosure and our finding that the Agreement was negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University's entering into this Agreement with Michigan Aerospace Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu
Interim Vice President for Research

February 2015