

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Inmatech, Inc.

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 research agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Levi Thompson and Dr. Saemin Choi are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of Inmatech, Inc. 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. Thompson, a Professor in the Departments of Chemical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, and Dr. Choi, a Lead Engineer in Research in the Department of Chemical Engineering, are partial owners of a for-profit company called Inmatech, Inc. (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled “Evaluation of Supercapacitor Performance at Low Temperatures” (ORSP# 17-PAF04185) in the Department of Chemical Engineering under the direction of Dr. Levi Thompson. The purpose of this project is to assess the performance of a supercapacitor cells at various temperatures using a 48 channel Maccor battery cycler and environmental chamber.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately four (4) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$27,203. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes a provision for changes in time 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. Thompson to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to test the supercapacitors with the battery cycler and environmental chamber.

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 Inmatech, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu  
Vice President for Research

February 2017