

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Applied Materials, 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 Stephen Forrest is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a member of the Board of Directors of Applied Materials, 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. Stephen Forrest, a Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science – Electrical and Computer Engineering (EECS – ECE) Division, is a member of the Board of Directors of a for-profit company called Applied Materials, Inc. (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled “Neuromorphic Test Chip Collaboration” (ORSP# 19-PAF05315) in the Department of EECS – ECE Division under the direction of Dr. Wei Lu. The purpose of this project is to co-design and fabricate a neuromorphic in-memory compute test chip.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately eighteen (18) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$789,909. 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. Lu to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to enable the development of industry leading materials linked directly to AI benchmark outputs.

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 Applied Materials, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Hu', is positioned above the printed name.

S. Jack Hu  
Vice President for Research

March 2019