

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Regental Action Required Under the State of  
Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to transact with Astronautical Development,  
LLC (University of Michigan Employee, James Cutler, Partner)

Background:

The University of Michigan Climate and Space Science Department seeks approval to transact with Astronautical Development, LLC (“Astronautical”) for spaceflight hardware for the MBARC (“Michigan Bicentennial Archive”) and MiTEE (“Miniature Tether Electroynamics Experiment”) missions. The purchase includes 5 LI-2 radios, 1 radio breakout board and 2 USB’s for the CubeSat nanospacecraft. Astronautical was selected as these radios were designed for the development of the overall CubeSat spacecraft.

The proposed agreement falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as James Cutler is a University employee as Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering with the College of Engineering and would be party to the contract as Partner of Astronautical.

However, the Statute allows the University to enter into such agreements if the following conditions are met:

- a) The public servant promptly discloses any pecuniary interest in the contract to the official body which has power to approve the purchase, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.
- b) The purchase is approved by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the full membership of the approving body in open session without the vote of the public servant making the disclosure.
- c) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:
  - i) The name of each party involved in the contract.
  - ii) The terms of the purchase, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the purchase, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the purchase.
  - iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

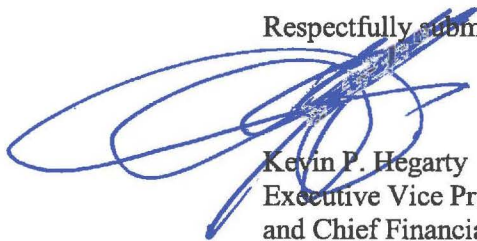
The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (c) above:

- i) The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Climate and Space Science Department, and Astronautical.
- ii) The agreement is for a one-time purchase of spaceflight hardware for the CubeSat nanospacecraft missions at a total cost of \$15,320. Astronautical will be supplying all the necessary resources and personnel to fulfill this contract. The remaining base contract terms and conditions are typical to those used in Procurement Services standard templates for other similar contracts entered into by the Regents.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, James Cutler, is Partner of Astronautical.

James Cutler has met state law requirements with the disclosure of his pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisor of James Cutler under the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the agreement between the University of Michigan and Astronautical subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of James Cutler or the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin P. Hegarty  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

April 2017