

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and HygraTek LLC

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 Anish Tuteja is an employee of the University of Michigan ("University"), and a partial owner of HygraTek LLC. 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. Anish Tuteja, an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Materials Science and Engineering and Macromolecular Science and Engineering, is the partial owner of a for-profit company called HygraTek LLC (the "Company"). The Company wishes to fund an Office of Navy Research (prime) STTR Phase II project entitled "Durable Elastomeric Low Adhesion Iophobic Surfaces" (ORSP #15-PAF05535) in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, under the direction of Dr. Anish Tuteja. The purpose of this project is to further develop and test ice phobic coating for watercraft, providing safer navigation and expanded geographic range.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately twenty-seven (27) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$450,000. 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. Anish Tuteja to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources to further synthesize and characterize highly durable super repellent surface materials that may be applied to various watercraft substrates.

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 of the University's entering into this Agreement with HygraTek LLC.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu  
Interim Vice President for Research

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