

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and Ann Arbor Hands On Museum

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Division of Research, Development and Administration while reviewing the Proposal Approval Form. This then triggered a review by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflict of interest was developed 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 John Keith Riles is both an employee of the University of Michigan ("University") and Trustee of the Ann Arbor Hands On Museum ("Museum"). The law permits the University to enter into such an Agreement provided it is disclosed to the executive officers and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote of the Regents.

Background:

Dr. John Keith Riles, Professor of Physics, is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Ann Arbor Hands On Museum, a non-profit museum. The Museum desires to work with Dr. Riles' research team to design and construct an innovative, interactive large-scale exhibit showcasing the exciting science of gravitational-wave astronomy and the cutting-edge technology behind the LIGO observatories. The exhibit will be premiered as part of the 2009 World Science Festival (WSF). In addition, the Museum will be involved in the creation of a smaller-scale, portable touring exhibition on gravitational-wave astronomy, adapted from elements of WSF exhibit, suitable for temporary display across a network of U.S. and foreign museums, science museums and academic institutions (including many of the LSC universities, and in particular Columbia University, which will host the Amaldi International Gravitational Wave Conference in June 2009).

Nature of the Agreement:

The Museum will build an interferometer exhibit for display at the 2009 and 2010 World Science Festivals for a 2009-2010-exhibit tour through several southern states. Most of the assembly will be carried out by the Museum, with some assistance from members of the University's research group.

Agreement Terms:

The University's standard contract provisions will apply to the University's part of the project. The period of performance is twelve (12) months and the amount of funding support is \$13,250. Since agreements are often amended, the contract will include provisions for changes in time, amount, and scope of the project. University procedures for approval of these changes will be followed and additional conflict of interest review will be done as appropriate.

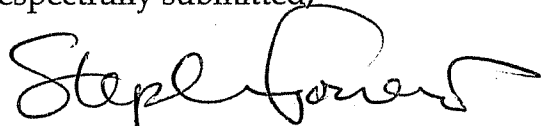
Impact of the Agreement:

The objective of the agreement is to secure support for a new, innovative and high-impact outreach project in the nascent field of gravitational wave astrophysics with specific deliverables leading to an exhibit with hands on scientific display capabilities.

Recommendation:

This Agreement has been reviewed and approved by the OVPR 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 Ann Arbor Hands On Museum.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen R. Forrest  
Vice President for Research

July 2009