

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the  
Regents  
July 16, 2015

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Option Agreement between the University of Michigan and Michigan Manufacturing Technology, Ltd.

Action Requested: Approval of Option Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Office of Technology Transfer while reviewing the technology transfer agreement that 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 this Committee and agreed to by the parties involved in this plan.

This proposed option agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Jun Ni is both an employee of the University of Michigan ("University") and a partial owner of Michigan Manufacturing Technology, Ltd. 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. Jun Ni, a Professor in the Departments of Manufacturing Science and Mechanical Engineering, is the partial owner of a for-profit company called Michigan Manufacturing Technology, Ltd. (the "Company"). The Company was formed recently to commercialize manufacturing tooling technologies and desires to option from the University of Michigan the University's rights associated with the following technology:

UM OTT File No. 1450, entitled: "Reconfigurable Machine Tool"  
(Inventors: Sridhar Kota and Yoram Koren)

The Office of Technology Transfer selected the Company as a University partner and negotiated the terms of the proposed Agreement in accordance with University policy and its accepted licensing principles.

Parties to the Agreement:

The Regents of the University of Michigan and Michigan Manufacturing Technology, Ltd.

Agreement Terms Include:

Agreement terms include granting the Company an option to obtain an exclusive license with the right to grant sublicenses. The Company will pay an option fee and reimburse patent costs.

The University will retain ownership of the optioned technology and may continue to further develop it and use it internally. No use of University services or facilities, nor any assignment of University employees, is obligated or contemplated under the Agreement. Standard disclaimers of warranties and indemnification apply, and the Agreement may be amended by consent of the parties, such as adding related technology. University procedures for approval of these changes will be followed and additional conflict of interest review will be done as appropriate.

Pecuniary Interest:

The pecuniary interests of Dr. Jun Ni arise from his ownership interest in Michigan Manufacturing Technology, Ltd.

Net Effect:

The Office of Technology Transfer has negotiated and finalized the terms of an option to obtain an exclusive license agreement for patents related to UM OTT File No.1450 for all fields of use in the territory of China. Michigan Manufacturing Technology, Ltd. will obtain use and evaluation rights to the above listed University technology.

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 Agreement between the University and Michigan Manufacturing Technology, Ltd.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu  
Interim Vice President for Research

July 2015