

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and Elegus Technologies, 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 agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Nicholas Kotov and Mr. John Hennessy, are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of Elgus Technologies, 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. Nicholas Kotov, a Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering, and Mr. John Hennessy, an Intermittent Lecturer in the Center for Entrepreneurship, College of Engineering, are the partial owners of the for-profit company called Elegus Technologies, Inc. (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a National Science Foundation (prime) STTR Phase I project entitled, “Structural Zn Batteries with Biomimetic Solid-State Electrolyte” (ORSP #18-PAF08308), in the Department of Chemical Engineering under the direction of Dr. Nicolas Kotov. The purpose of this project is to research and develop solid state structural batteries with Zn chemistry.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately twelve (12) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$101,250. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes provisions 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. Kotov to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to support the University’s participation in the research project.

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 Elegus Technologies, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu  
Vice President for Research

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