

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Civionics, LLC

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 which then triggered a review by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflicts of interest was then developed by the Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

The proposed agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Jerome Lynch is both an employee of the University of Michigan ("University") and partial owner of Civionics, LLC. The law permits 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. Jerome Lynch, Associate Professor in the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in the College of Engineering, is a partial owner of a for-profit company called Civionics, LLC ("Company"). The Company has applied for a National Science Foundation SBIR Phase I project and, if funded, wishes to subcontract a portion of the work into the University under the direction of Dr. Lynch. The goal of this NSF SBIR Phase I project proposes a transformative green building automation solution, designed specifically to maximize the environmental and economic impact of green building automation technology.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement will conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately one (1) year. The amount of funding support is anticipated to be \$13,136. The Agreement includes a provision for extensions of the time period and scope of work. 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 enable the University to participate in important research efforts to further explore and develop innovative technology that will expand their expertise in wireless sensing and control by utilizing a multifunctional piezoelectric smart flooring system for energy efficient control in commercial building systems in order to create a product offering that will overcome limitations associated with current GBA systems.

Recommendation:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. In light of the disclosure made in this document 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 Civionics, LLC.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen R. Forrest
Vice President for Research

September 2011