

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and nLIGHT, 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 Almantas Galvanauskas is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a partial owner of nLIGHT, 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. Almantas Galvanauskas, a Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, is a partial owner of a for-profit company called nLIGHT, Inc. (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a Joint Technology Office (prime) project entitled “Numerical Simulations and Theoretical Analysis of Transverse Modal Instabilities (TMI) in Kilowatt Power Chirally Coupled Core (3C) Fiber Amplifiers” (ORSP# 16-PAF07731) in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science under the direction of Dr. Almantas Galvanauskas. The purpose of this project is to apply this numerical and theoretical model to study, predict and control the TMI effect in 3C fibers.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately seven (7) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$35,000.25. 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. Galvanauskas to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to further develop numerical and theoretical models so as to reduce thermal load and increase the precision of high-precision lasers.

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 nLIGHT, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu  
Vice President for Research

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