

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Regental Action Required Under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to transact with CubeWorks, Inc. (University of Michigan Employees, David Blaauw, Dennis Sylvester, David Wentzloff, Stockholders; Seokhyeon Jeong, Gyouho Kim, Yejoong Kim, Employees and Stockholders; ZhiYoong Foo, Employee, Director, and Stockholder; Hun-Seok Kim, Consultant and Stockholder).

Background:

The University of Michigan Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science seeks approval to enter into an agreement with CubeWorks, Inc. for custom radio gateway receivers. CubeWorks, Inc. was selected as their receivers make it possible to design ultra-small and ultra-low power sensors. The agreement is for a duration of two years at a total cost not to exceed \$200,000.

The proposed agreement falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as David Blaauw, Professor, Dennis Sylvester, Professor, and David Wentzloff, Professor, are University employees with the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and would be parties to the contract as stockholders of CubeWorks, Inc.; Seokhyeon Jeong, Research Fellow, Gyouho Kim, Assistant Research Fellow, and Yejoong Kim, Senior Research Engineer, are University employees with the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and would be parties to the contract as employees and stockholders of CubeWorks, Inc.; ZhiYoong Foo, Senior Research Engineer, is a University employee with the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and would be party to the contract as employee, director, and stockholder of CubeWorks, Inc.; and Hun-Seok Kim, Assistant Professor, is a University employee with the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and would be party to the contract as consultant and stockholder of CubeWorks, Inc.

However, the Statute allows the University to enter into such agreements if the following conditions are met:

- a) The public servant promptly discloses any pecuniary interest in the contract to the official body which has power to approve the purchase, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.
- b) The purchase is approved by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the full membership of the approving body in open session without the vote of the public servant making the disclosure.
- c) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:
  - i) The name of each party involved in the contract.
  - ii) The terms of the purchase, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the purchase, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the purchase.

- iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (c) above:

- i) The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and CubeWorks, Inc.
- ii) The agreement is for a duration of two years at a total cost not to exceed \$200,000. CubeWorks, Inc. will be supplying all the necessary resources and personnel to fulfill this contract. The remaining base contract terms and conditions are typical to those used in Procurement Services standard templates for other similar contracts entered into by the Regents.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employees, David Blaauw, Dennis Sylvester, and David Wentzloff, are stockholders; Seokhyeon Jeong, Gyouho Kim, and Yejoong Kim are employees and stockholders; ZhiYoong Foo is employee, director, and stockholder; and Hun-Seok Kim is consultant and stockholder of CubeWorks, Inc.

David Blaauw, Dennis Sylvester, David Wentzloff, Seokhyeon Jeong, Gyouho Kim, Yejoong Kim, ZhiYoong Foo, and Hun-Seok Kim have met state law requirements with the disclosure of their pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisors of David Blaauw, Dennis Sylvester, David Wentzloff, Seokhyeon Jeong, Gyouho Kim, Yejoong Kim, ZhiYoong Foo, and Hun-Seok Kim, under the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the agreement between the University of Michigan and CubeWorks, Inc. subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisors of David Blaauw, Dennis Sylvester, David Wentzloff, Seokhyeon Jeong, Gyouho Kim, Yejoong Kim, ZhiYoong Foo, and Hun-Seok Kim or the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin P. Hegarty  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

February 2021