

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 purchase from Flidea LLC (University Employee Scott Pletcher, Owner).

Background:

The University of Michigan Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology seeks approval to transact with Flidea LLC for high-frequency programmable LED control boards for optogenetic manipulations. The control boards provide accurate and precise control of specialized high-intensity LEDs arrays that are used for controlled optogenetic manipulation of *Drosophila* neurons.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Scott Pletcher is employed by the University as Professor with Molecular and Integrative Physiology Department and would be a party to the contract as owner of Flidea LLC.

However, the Statute allows the university to enter into such contracts 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 Molecular and Integrative Physiology Department and Flidea LLC.
- ii) The contract is for a one-time purchase of high-frequency programmable LED control boards at a total cost not to exceed \$15,000. Flidea LLC will supply 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 employee, Scott Pletcher, is owner of Flidea LLC.

Scott Pletcher has met state law requirements with the disclosure of his pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisor of Scott Pletcher 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 contract between the University of Michigan and Flidea LLC subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of Scott Pletcher or the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Hewlett III
Interim Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

February 2026



NEXT IN CLASS

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST
DISCLOSURE FORM**

Our unit plans to purchase goods/services from a University of Michigan employee or from a supplier with which an employee has a relationship. In order to assist Procurement Services in requesting approval for this purchase, we are providing the following information:

1. Name of department:

Molecular and Integrative Physiology

2. Name of supplier:

Flidea LLC

3. Name of employee(s) whose relationship with the supplier creates the conflict:

Scott Pletcher

4. Type of relationship the employee has with the department:

No relationship with the department that made the purchasing decision.

An employee of the department or unit.

No direct employment relationship with the department but works closely with the department as an employee of the University in the following manner:

An employee of the department or unit.

5. Description of the good or service being purchased:

High frequency programmable LED control boards for optogenetic manipulations.

6. Provide the details of the transaction, which include the duration of the contract, if a contract is awarded, and the financial terms of the transaction:

This is a one time purchase of \$15,000.

7. Explanation of the business need for this good or service:

These control boards provide accurate and precise control of specialized high-intensity LEDs arrays that are used for controlled optogenetic manipulation of *Drosophila* neurons. These controls boards, to my knowledge, are only available through Flidea, and they have been used by other neuroscience laboratories across the country, including the Allada lab here at UM.

8. The individual with the conflict should not participate in any way with the selection of the product, service, or supplier or be involved in the awarding of the business. This includes NOT:

- a. Suggesting the product or service for which they have a conflict.
- b. Participating in any way in the evaluation of the alternative purchase options.

- c. Participating in any way in the decision process to buy.
- d. Participating in the contracting or funding of the purchase decision.
- e. Participating in the supervision or acceptance of the product or service purchased.
- f. Developing or participating in the development of product specifications or scope of service.

X Agree; the individual with the conflict of interest was not and will not be in any way, as outlined above, involved in the purchase of the good or service.

Disagree; the individual was/will be involved in the following way and we are requesting an exception to allow this purchase because this involvement was absolutely essential for the following reason (include what controls were in place to ensure that others reviewed the decision-making). Explain:

These boards are required for experiments for several different funded projects. The laboratory is no longer in a position to manufacture boards of similar function, and Flidea is the only commercial source of the technology.

9. **Wherever possible, purchases should not be sole-sourced to a COI supplier.** The award of the purchase to the COI supplier was determined by the following means:

Good or service was bid to multiple suppliers and this supplier offers the best pricing.

Good or service was bid to multiple suppliers and this supplier offers the most appropriate product or service and was selected although the pricing was not the best offered. Explain.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Good or service was not bid to multiple suppliers, the individual with the conflict was not involved in the purchasing process and the following is the reason that bidding this good or service was not at all possible:

This item is unique and available only through Flidea.

Good or service was not bid to multiple suppliers and the individual with the conflict was involved in the purchasing process. An exception to this should be considered because it was not feasible to either bid this or have the individual uninvolved in the purchasing process. Explain.

Click or tap here to enter text.

NOTE: The completion of this form does not constitute approval of this COI purchase. Procurement Services has the discretion to determine whether the justification provided in this document is sufficient to submit this transaction for Regental approval.



Signature of Requestor

12/1/2025

Date

Scott Pletcher

Printed Name



Signature of Dean/Director/Department Head

12/1/2025

Date:

Pat Ridenour

Printed Name

Chief Department Administrator

Title



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 3003 SOUTH STATE STREET
 ANN ARBOR, MI 48109-1282

FINANCE
PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

PECUNIARY INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The State of Michigan statute, MCLA 15.322 et seq., in effect since 1984, states that the university may not enter into a contract with any of its employees (or a supplier in which an employee has an interest) without first disclosing certain information to the Board of Regents. One item of information requiring disclosure is the nature of the pecuniary (financial) interest of the university employee with the supplier.

The disclosure of a significant relationship does not suggest or condone bias in decision-making, but rather, it provides the University of Michigan Procurement Services with information that might be of importance to the disposition of a transaction.

In regard to the requirement:

Name of Supplier Flidea LLC
 Name of Employee Scott Pletcher
 Employee's Department Molecular and Integrative Physiology
 Employee's Title Professor

Relationship with Supplier:

- Stockholder
- Owner
- Partner
- Director
- Member
- Employee
- Other _____

 Employee Signature

7/30/2024

 Date

 Professor _____
 Title