

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

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

Action Requested: Authorize Execution of Investment Agreements from the Accelerate Blue Fund (“A-B Fund”) for NewHaptics, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the “Company”).

Background:

In October 2019, the Board of Regents approved the Accelerate Blue Fund (“A-B Fund”) and its guidelines.

The proposed investment agreements (the "Agreements") fall under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because the listed Interested Individuals are employees of the University and have sufficient pecuniary interest in the Agreements as partial owners of the company, and/or undertake a senior company officer or board role. The law permits such an Agreement provided it is disclosed to the Board of Regents (“Regents”) of the University and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote of the Board.

No use of University services or facilities, nor any assignment of University employees, is obligated or contemplated under the Agreement.

If the transaction proceeds, the parties to the Agreements would include the University and the Company, and the University would receive an equity interest or future equity interest in the Company in return for its investment(s). The Agreements would reflect typical venture capital investing documentation.

The A-B Fund is seeking approval for financing agreements up to a total of \$1,500,000 in potential investments (through one or more rounds of financing) in the Company. It is understood that, upon approval of this item, A-B Fund will have no obligation to enter into the Agreements or proceed with any investment in the Company.

The Company, founded in 2018 and headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, produces a refreshable full-page tactile display that enables a true digital experience for the blind. This technology was developed and licensed from the University of Michigan.

Interested Individuals:

Maire Sile O'Modhrain, Ph.D. – Chair of Performing Arts Technology and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Michigan, School of Music, Theater and Dance.

Robert Brent Gillespie, Ph.D. – Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Robotics at the University of Michigan, College of Engineering in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

We believe state law requirements have been met with the disclosure of the interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan.

We recommend that the Board of Regents authorize execution of agreements between the University of Michigan and NewHaptics, Inc., as set forth above.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Cunningham', written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Cunningham
Vice President for Research

March 2023