

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and EMAG Technologies, 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 Kamal Sarabandi is an employee of the University of Michigan ("University"), and a partial owner of EMAG Technologies, LLC. 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. Kamal Sarabandi, a Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, College of Engineering, is the partial owner of a for-profit company called EMAG Technologies, Inc. (the "Company"). The Company wishes to fund a Department of the Air Force (prime) STTR Phase I project entitled: "Miniaturized VHF and UHF Antennas Using Multiferroic Based Metamaterial Substrates" (ORSP# 14-PAF05937) in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, under the direction of Dr. Amir Mortizawi. Dr. Sarabandi is not involved in the work being conducted at the UM or the Company in this research project. The purpose of this project is to help create VHF and UHF transmission antennae that operate in the more reliable low frequency ranges, without the large size typically associated with such low frequency antennae.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately nine (9) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$75,000. Since research projects are often amended, this Agreement includes provisions for changes in time, amount, and scope of the project. 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. Amir Mortizawi to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources to synthesize and characterize various multiferroic based metamaterials for use as antenna substrates with the goal of reducing transmission frequency while maintaining small antenna size.

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 EMAG Technologies, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu
Interim Vice President for Research

May 2014