

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Option Agreement between the University of Michigan and Arbor Semiconductor Corporation

Action Requested: Approval of Option Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Office of Technology Transfer while reviewing the technology transfer agreement that 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 this Committee and agreed to by the parties involved in this plan.

This proposed option agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Pinaki Mazumder is an employee of the University of Michigan ("University") and a partial owner of Arbor Semiconductor Corporation. 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. Pinaki Mazumder, a Professor in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, is the partial owner of a for-profit company called Arbor Semiconductor Corporation (the "Company"). The Company was formed recently to commercialize Robust SRAM Cells for Improving Write Margin in Ultra-Low Power Applications, and desires to obtain an option to license from the University of Michigan the University's rights associated with the following technologies:

UM OTT File No. 5256, entitled: "Multi-Bit Memory Read Method" (Pinaki Mazumder, Yalcin Yilmaz)

UM OTT File No. 5408, entitled: "Adaptive Method of Reading and Writing to a Memory Array" (Pinaki Mazumder, Indongesit Ebong)

UM OTT File No. 5931, entitled: "Memristor Crossbar Memory for Hybrid Ultra-Low Power Hearing Aid Speech Processor" (Pinaki Mazumder, Jinal Shah, Mahmood Barangi)

UM OTT File No. 5937, entitled: "Novel Robust 13T SRAM Cell for Improving Write Margin in Ultra-Low Power Applications" (Pinaki Mazumder, Jaeyoung Kim)

UM OTT File No. 6054, entitled: "9T and 11T SRAM Cells with Improved WriteNoise Margin" (Pinaki Mazumder, Nan Zheng)

The Office of Technology Transfer selected the Company as a University partner and negotiated the terms of the proposed Agreement in accordance with University policy and its accepted licensing principles.

Parties to the Agreement:

The Regents of the University of Michigan and Arbor Semiconductor Corporation.

Agreement Terms Include:

Agreement terms include granting the Company an option to further evaluate the subject technology and, upon meeting specific milestones, the ability to negotiate an exclusive license with the right to grant sublicenses. The Company will pay an option fee to the University.

The University will retain ownership of the optioned technology and may continue to further develop it and use it internally as well as in collaborations with other research institutions. No use of University services or facilities, nor any assignment of University employees, is obligated or contemplated under the Agreement. Standard disclaimers of warranties and indemnification apply, and the Agreement may be amended by consent of the parties, such as adding related technology. University procedures for approval of these changes will be followed and additional conflict of interest review will be done as appropriate.

Pecuniary Interest:

The pecuniary interests of Dr. Mazumder arise from his ownership interest in Arbor Semiconductor Corporation.

Net Effect:

The Office of Technology Transfer has negotiated and finalized the terms of an option agreement for patents related to UM OTT File Nos. 5256, 5408, 5931, 5937 and 6054 for all fields of use. Arbor Semiconductor Corporation will obtain evaluation rights to the above listed University technology.

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 Agreement between the University and Arbor Semiconductor Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu  
Interim Vice President for Research

June 2014