

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and Rydberg Technologies LLC

Action Requested: Authorization to amend an 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 Georg Raithel is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a partial owner of Rydberg 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. Georg Raithel, a Professor in the Department of Physics, is the partial owner of a for-profit company called Rydberg Technologies LLC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to amend a subcontract agreement previously approved by the Regents on July 21, 2016 to include the proposal entitled, “Vapor-cell development for Rydberg-atom-based sensors for electromagnetic fields” (ORSP# 18-PAF07603) in the Department of Physics under the direction of Dr. Bradford Orr. The purpose of this amendment is to add funds to continue work to develop atom-based sensors or measurement devices for electromagnetic fields.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Amendment conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is extended to August 31, 2018. The amount of funding support will be increased by \$21,068 and will not exceed \$93,068. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes provisions for changes in time and scope. 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. Orr to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources to continue to develop atom-based sensors or measurement devices for electromagnetic fields.

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 Rydberg Technologies LLC.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu
Vice President for Research

June 2018