

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and S2A Technologies LLC

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 Chinedum Okwudire is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a partial owner of S2A 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. Chinedum Okwudire, an Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, is a partial owner of a for-profit company called S2A Technologies LLC (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund an NSF (prime) SBIR Phase I project entitled “COVID-19: Minimizing Uncertainties in Software-Based Vibration Compensation of 3D Printers to Enable Increased Speed and Accuracy” (ORSP #20-PAF07624) in the Department of Mechanical Engineering under the direction of Dr. Okwudire. The purpose of this project is to better understand and implement robust calibration techniques for 3-D printers.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately one (1) year. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$73,526. 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. Okwudire to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to further understand, implement, and develop robust calibration techniques for 3-D printers to bring more widespread and successful use to a variety of environments.

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 S2A Technologies LLC.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rebecca Cunningham".

Rebecca Cunningham
Vice President for Research

June 2020