

# The University of Michigan Regents Communication

## Request for Action

### **Subject: Commercialization Agreements with the University**

#### **Action Requested: Approval of Commercialization Agreements**

##### **Preamble:**

Statutory conflicts of interest situations were identified by Innovation Partnerships while reviewing commercialization agreements that then triggered a review by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board (“Board”) and/or the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee (“Committee”). Plans for management of the possible risks associated with the conflicts of interest will be developed and approved by the Board and/or Committee and may require agreement by the parties involved.

These proposed commercialization agreements (“Agreements”) fall under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because employees of the University of Michigan (“University”) have outside activities, relationships, or interests in the companies described in Attachment A. The law permits such Agreements provided they are disclosed to the Board of Regents (“Regents”) of the University and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote.

##### **Background:**

These companies were formed to commercialize University technologies and desire to option, license, or reassign the University’s rights associated with them. Innovation Partnerships selected these companies as University partners and negotiated the terms of the proposed agreements in accordance with University policy and its accepted licensing principles.

##### **Agreement Terms Include:**

The University will retain ownership of the optioned, licensed, or reassigned technologies and may continue to further develop and use them internally. No use of University services or facilities, nor any assignment of University employees, is obligated or contemplated under the Agreements. Standard disclaimers of warranties and indemnification apply, and the Agreements 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. Terms specific to each Agreement are described in Attachment A

##### **Net Effect:**

Innovation Partnerships has negotiated and finalized the terms of the option, license, or reassignment agreements for patents, technology, or content related to University technologies for particular fields of use. The companies will obtain the right to evaluate, use, and/or commercialize the University technologies. The net effects specific to each Agreement are described in Attachment A.

**Recommendations:**

These matters have been reviewed and approved by the Board and/or the Committee. In light of this disclosure and our finding that the Agreements were negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the Agreements between the University and the companies outlined in Attachment A.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur Lupia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Arthur" and last name "Lupia" clearly distinguishable.

**Arthur Lupia**

Vice President for Research and Innovation

June 2026

Attachment

## **Attachment A**

### **Agreement #1**

**License Agreement between the University and Amplify Computing, Inc.**

**Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

#### **Background:**

Amplify Computing, Inc. was formed to commercialize silicon photonics-based digital optical computing technologies and desires to license the University's rights associated with the technology listed below.

#### **Innovation Partnerships Intellectual Property File Information:**

- **Number:** 2026-496
  - **Title:** Electro-Optic Modulator with Integrated MOSCAP-Based Phase Tuner
  - **Inventors:** Di Liang, Alex Klapowitz, Yatiraj Ramanujam

#### **Net Effects:**

- Worldwide non-exclusive
- Patents
- All fields of use
- Right to commercialize

#### **Agreement Terms:**

Amplify Computing, Inc. will:

- Pay a royalty on sales
- Reimburse patent costs

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Amplify Computing, Inc.:**

- Di Liang; Professor, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering (EECS – ECE) Division; Partial Owner

## **Agreement #2**

### **Option Agreement between the University and ArtOva Biosciences, Inc.**

### **Reviewed by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

#### **Background:**

ArtOva Biosciences, Inc. was formed to develop and commercialize a cell-based therapy to restore natural ovarian function in young women and girls suffering from Premature Ovarian Insufficiency (POI) and desires to option the University's rights associated with the technology listed below.

#### **Innovation Partnerships Intellectual Property File Information:**

- **Number:** 6651
  - **Title:** Restoration of Ovarian Endocrine Function
  - **Inventors:** Ariella Shikanov
- **Number:** 2023-500
  - **Title:** Method for analysis and selection of human ovarian tissue for grafting in an immune-isolating capsule
  - **Inventors:** Ariella Shikanov, Gabrielle Blevins, Colleen Flanagan
- **Number:** 2024-096
  - **Title:** Immune Isolating Device With Improved Diffusion
  - **Inventors:** Ariella Shikanov, Margaret Ann Brunette, Delaney Snow Sinko
- **Number:** 2025-031
  - **Title:** Device for the subcutaneous administration of pre-polymerized hydrogels
  - **Inventors:** Ariella Shikanov, Gabrielle Blevins, Nicholas Hoffman, Victoria Lee Jan, Tavish Paritesh, Sharma, Yuezhong Zhang

#### **Net Effects:**

- Worldwide exclusive
- Patents
- All fields of use
- Evaluation only

#### **Agreement Terms:**

ArtOva Biosciences, Inc. will:

- Pay an upfront fee
- Pay ongoing patent costs

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with ArtOva Biosciences, Inc.:**

- Ariella Shikanov; Professor, Biomedical Engineering; Partial Owner
- David Olson; New Product Planning Manager/Mentor-in-Residence, Innovation Partnerships, and LEO Intermittent Lecturer, Microbiology and Immunology; Member, Board of Directors

## **Agreement #3**

### **License Agreement between the University and Behaviora LLC**

#### **Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

#### **Background:**

Behaviora LLC was formed to provide services and support for users of LabGym, an open-source platform for automated analysis of animal behavior and desires to license the University's rights associated with the technology listed below.

#### **Innovation Partnerships Intellectual Property File Information:**

- **Number:** 2026-282
  - **Title:** LabGym: A software platform for automated analysis of animal behavior
  - **Inventors:** Bing Ye, Yujia Hu

#### **Net Effects:**

- Worldwide exclusive
- Copyrights
- All fields of use
- Right to commercialize

#### **Agreement Terms:**

Behaviora LLC will:

- Obtain the right to grant sublicenses

The University will:

- Receive equity in Behaviora LLC

The University may:

- Retain the right to purchase more equity in Behaviora LLC

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Behaviora LLC:**

- Bing Ye; Research Professor, Life Sciences Institute; Partial Owner
- Robert Tomlinson; Research Computer Specialist, Life Sciences Institute; Partial Owner

## **Agreement #4**

### **License Agreement between the University and Blue Daisy Bio, Inc.**

#### **Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

#### **Background:**

Blue Daisy Bio, Inc. was formed to commercialize new prebiotics inulin gel technology and desires to license the University's rights associated with the technology listed below.

#### **Innovation Partnerships Intellectual Property File Information:**

- **Number:** 2019-461
  - **Title:** Oral Drugs to Improve Cancer Immunotherapy
  - **Inventors:** James Moon, Kai Han, Xuehui Huang, Jin Xu

#### **Net Effects:**

- Worldwide exclusive
- Patents
- All fields of use (except therapeutics uses)
- Right to commercialize

#### **Agreement Terms:**

Blue Daisy Bio, Inc. will:

- Obtain the right to grant sublicenses
- Pay a royalty on sales
- Reimburse patent costs

The University will:

- Have the right to acquire equity in Blue Daisy Bio, Inc.
- Retain the right to purchase more equity in Blue Daisy Bio, Inc.

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Blue Daisy Bio, Inc.:**

- James Moon; Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences; Partial Owner

## **Agreement #5**

### **License Agreement between the University and Genocarta LLC**

#### **Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

#### **Background:**

Genocarta LLC was formed to support organizations, civic entities, and academic researchers who are seeking to understand large-scale community input in the form of interviews, survey responses, or public comment documents and desires to license the University's rights associated with the technology listed below.

#### **Innovation Partnerships Intellectual Property File Information:**

- **Number:** 2026-001
  - **Title:** Response Modeling and Visualization
  - **Inventors:** Gabriel Harp, Shubhayan Ukil, Jack Bowman

#### **Net Effects:**

- Worldwide exclusive
- Patent and copyright
- All fields of use
- Right to commercialize

#### **Agreement Terms:**

Genocarta LLC will:

- Obtain the right to grant sublicenses
- Pay a royalty on sales
- Reimburse patent costs

The University will:

- Receive equity in Genocarta LLC

The University may:

- Retain the right to purchase more equity in Genocarta LLC

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Genocarta LLC:**

- Gabriel Harp; Director of Research and Creative Practice, Taubman College; Partial Owner

## **Agreement #6**

### **License Agreement between the University and Geomind, Inc.**

#### **Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

#### **Background:**

Geomind, Inc. was formed to commercialize advanced robotics and autonomy technologies for field robotics across marine, land, and air applications and desires to license the University's rights associated with the technology listed below.

#### **Innovation Partnerships Intellectual Property File Information:**

- **Number:** 2026-196
  - **Title:** SO(3)-Equivariant Neural Inertial Odometry (ENIO)
  - **Inventors:** Maani Ghaffari, Chankyo Kim, Ben Liu, Tzu-Yuan Lin, Minghan Zhu

#### **Net Effects:**

- Worldwide exclusive
- Patents
- All fields of use
- Right to commercialize

#### **Agreement Terms:**

Geomind, Inc. will:

- Obtain the right to grant sublicenses
- Pay a royalty on sales
- Reimburse patent costs

The University will:

- Receive equity in Geomind, Inc.
- Retain the right to purchase more equity in Geomind, Inc.

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Geomind, Inc.:**

- Maani Ghaffari; Assistant Professor, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering; Partial Owner

## **Agreement #7**

### **License Agreement between the University and In the Making Studios LLC**

#### **Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

#### **Background:**

In the Making Studios LLC was formed to transform business, innovation, and impact concepts into tangible, collaborative games and hands-on experiences for educational enrichment and entrepreneurial services organizations and desires to license the University's rights associated with the technology listed below.

#### **Innovation Partnerships Intellectual Property File Information:**

- **Number:** #2024-248
  - **Title:** Design a Restaurant: An Equitable Business Model Board Game
  - **Inventors:** Cat Johnson, Gerald Davis

#### **Net Effects:**

- Worldwide exclusive
- Copyrights
- All fields of use
- Right to commercialize

#### **Agreement Terms:**

In the Making Studios LLC will:

- Obtain the right to grant sublicenses

The University may:

- Receive equity in In the Making Studios LLC
- Have the right to acquire equity in In the Making Studios LLC

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with In the Making Studios LLC:**

- Catherine Johnson; Managing Director, Ross Business+Impact; Partial Owner
- Gerald Davis; Professor, Business Administration; Partial Owner

## **Agreement #8**

### **License Agreement between the University and Space Plasma Effects LLC**

#### **Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

#### **Background:**

Space Plasma Effects LLC was formed to commercialize and sell modeling software to support space exploration and science endeavors and desires to license the University's rights associated with the technology listed below.

#### **Innovation Partnerships Intellectual Property File Information:**

- **Number:** 2026-583
  - **Title:** Nascap-2K Pipeline
  - **Inventors:** Omar Leon

#### **Net Effects:**

- Worldwide exclusive
- Copyrights
- All fields of use
- Right to commercialize

#### **Agreement Terms:**

Space Plasma Effects LLC will:

- Obtain the right to grant sublicenses
- Pay a royalty on sales

The University may:

- Receive equity in Space Plasma Effects LLC
- Retain the right to acquire or purchase more equity in Space Plasma Effects LLC

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Space Plasma Effects LLC:**

- Omar Leon; Assistant Research Scientist, Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering; Partial Owner

## **Agreement #9**

### **License Agreement between the University and THETA 1 INC.**

#### **Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee**

#### **Background:**

THETA 1 INC. was formed to commercialize tools and techniques to create guardrails that enable effective and efficient oversight of AI systems and desires to license the University's rights associated with the technology listed below.

#### **Innovation Partnerships Intellectual Property File Information:**

- **Number:** 2024-124
  - **Title:** Visual Interactive Model Explorer for Identifying Capabilities and Limitations of Machine Learning Models for Sequential Decision-Making
  - **Inventors:** Nikola Banovic, Anindya Das Antar, Somayeh Molaei, Yan-Ying Chen, Matthew Lee
- **Number:** 2026-245
  - **Title:** Enabling Expert Users to Introduce Latent Domain Knowledge by Interactively Steering AI Models Toward Desired Outputs
  - **Inventors:** Nikola Banovic, Anindya Das Antar
- **Number:** 2025-647
  - **Title:** Bayesian Method for Evaluating and Selecting Effective Guardrails in Aligning LLM Outputs with Expert User Expectations
  - **Inventors:** Nikola Banovic, Anindya Das Antar, Xun Huan

#### **Net Effects:**

- Worldwide exclusive except for 2024-124 (non-exclusive)
- Copyright for 2024-124
- Patents for 2026-245, 2025-647
- All fields of use
- Right to commercialize

#### **Agreement Terms:**

THETA 1 INC. will:

- Obtain the right to grant sublicenses
- Reimburse patent costs

The University will:

- Receive equity in THETA 1 INC.
- Retain the right to purchase more equity in THETA 1 INC.

#### **University Employee; University Title; Relationship with THETA 1 INC.:**

- Nikola Banovic; Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Computer Science and Engineering (EECS – CSE) Division; Partial Owner