

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Project Agreements with the University of Michigan

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into or amend Agreements

Preamble:

Statutory conflicts of interest situations were identified by the Conflict of Interest Offices while reviewing Proposal Approval Forms 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 at time of award.

These proposed projects (e.g., research, sponsored activity, and/or subcontract) agreements (“Agreement”) and/or amendments to Agreements (“Amendments”) fall under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because University of Michigan (“University”) employees have activities, relationships, or interests in the companies as 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.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreements and/or Amendments conform to University policy. The funding support will not exceed the amount reported in Attachment A for each Agreement and/or Amendment. Since projects are often amended, these Agreements and/or Amendments include 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 Agreements and/or Amendments will provide support of investigator’s effort to use their expertise and University laboratories, as well as other University resources, to execute the projects as reported 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 and Amendments were negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University’s entering into or amending the Agreements referenced in Attachment A.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Lupia', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Arthur Lupia

Vice President for Research and Innovation

June 2026

Attachment

Attachment A

Project #1

Subcontract Agreement between the University and A3 Technologies Inc.

Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee

Title: Effluent Coupled High current Oxygen Cathode (ECHO-C)

U-M Project ID: 26-PAF07578

Direct Sponsor: A3 Technologies Inc.

Prime Sponsor: Defense, Department of-Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency-Subcontracts

Principal Investigator/Department: Collin Whittaker, Aerospace Engineering

Project Start Date: 7/1/2026

Project End Date: 3/31/2028

Funding Support: \$298,174

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to design, fabricate, and validate an oxygen resilient, effluent coupled Lanthanum Hexaboride thermionic cathode that enables sustained, high current operation in oxygenic propellants for air breathing Hall effect propulsion in VLEO (Very Low Earth Orbit).

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with A3 Technologies Inc.:

- Tate Gill; Assistant Research Scientist, Aerospace Engineering; Partial Owner
- Benjamin Jorns; Associate Professor, Aerospace Engineering; Partial Owner
- Eric Vigés; Engineer in Research Lead, Aerospace Engineering; Partial Owner

Project #2

Subcontract Agreement between the University and Applied Dynamics International, Inc.

Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee

Title: Reactive Reinforcement Learning for Robust Autonomous Space Domain Awareness

U-M Project ID: 26-PAF06686

Direct Sponsor: Applied Dynamics International, Inc.

Prime Sponsor: Defense-Air Force, Department of-Subcontracts

Principal Investigator/Department: Oliver Jia-Richards, Aerospace Engineering

Project Start Date: 9/1/2026

Project End Date: 11/27/2026

Funding Support: \$125,000

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to support Applied Dynamics International, Inc.'s proposed work for the Adaptive and Intelligent Space (AIS) Challenge by providing expertise, developing, and training a Dyna reinforcement learning agent algorithm for an AIS-relevant scenario.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Applied Dynamics International, Inc.:

- Michael Drake; Policy Advisor to Vice Provost/Dean, Office of Advancement, College of Engineering; Member, Board of Directors

Project #3

Subcontract Agreement between the University and Applied Dynamics International, Inc.

Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee

Title: Agentic AI for Autonomous Process-Material Commissioning

U-M Project ID: 26-PAF07856

Direct Sponsor: Applied Dynamics International, Inc.

Prime Sponsor: Energy, Department of-Subcontracts

Principal Investigator/Department: Dawn Tilbury, Robotics

Project Start Date: 7/1/2026

Project End Date: 3/31/2027

Funding Support: \$325,000

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to develop and demonstrate an agentic AI framework on the University of Michigan’s electrohydrodynamic jet (EHD) printing process for a reusable AI approach that transforms manufacturing into a data-driven, autonomous system.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Applied Dynamics International, Inc.:

- Michael Drake; Policy Advisor to Vice Provost/Dean, Office of Advancement, College of Engineering; Member, Board of Directors

Project #4

Research Agreement between the University and Heat2Power Inc.

Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee

Title: Thermophotovoltaic Device Research and Process Development

U-M Project ID: 26-PAF07650

Direct Sponsor: Heat2Power Inc.

Principal Investigator/Department: Stephen Forrest, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering (EECS – ECE) Division

Project Start Date: 6/1/2026

Project End Date: 5/30/2027

Funding Support: \$198,068

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to produce innovative solutions to fundamental manufacturing and materials problems in group III-V (thermophotovoltaic) TPVs and enable TPVs to reach lower costs than existing power generation infrastructure.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Heat2Power Inc.:

- Stephen Forrest; Professor, EECS – ECE Division; Partial Owner
- Andrej Lenert; Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering; Partial Owner

Project #5

Research Agreement between the University and the Osteo Science Foundation

Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee

Title: Sclerostin Antibody Promotes Bone Regeneration in Peri-Implantitis

U-M Project ID: 26-PAF07671

Direct Sponsor: Osteo Science Foundation

Principal Investigator/Department: Hsiao Hsin Sung, Maxillofacial Surgery

Project Start Date: 8/1/2026

Project End Date: 7/31/2028

Funding Support: \$182,702

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to use ligature-induced peri-implantitis in wild-type and *Brtl/+* (osteogenesis imperfecta) mice, and test preventative (implant placement) and regenerative (post-infection) SclAb strategies, to establish SclAb as the first therapy to regenerate bone in peri-implantitis.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with the Osteo Science Foundation:

- Sean Edwards; Clinical Professor, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Member, Board of Directors