

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Rolith, Inc.

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Division of Research Development and Administration while reviewing the Proposal Approval Form which then triggered a review by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflicts of interest was then developed 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 L. Jay Guo is both an employee of the University of Michigan ("University") and a partial owner of Rolith, Inc. The law permits such an agreement provided it is disclosed to the executive officers and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote of the Regents.

Background:

Dr. L. Jay Guo, a Professor of Engineering and Computer Science and Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering, is a partial owner of a for-profit company called Rolith, Inc. (the "Company"). The Company wishes to fund a project in the College of Engineering under the direction of Dr. Guo. The goal of this project is to develop processes to fabricate rolling masks that can be used in the novel roller lithography system to be constructed by Rolith.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The initial period of performance for the project is one (1) year. The amount of funding support is anticipated to be \$47,606. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes provisions for changes in time, amount, and scope of the supported projects. 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:

This Agreement will enable the University to participate in important research efforts to explore and develop innovative technology related to processes to fabricate rolling masks that can be used in a novel roller lithography system.

Recommendation:

This matter was reviewed and approved by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. In light of the disclosures made in this document and our finding that the agreement was negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve of the University's entering into this Agreement with Rolith, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen R. Forrest". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stephen R. Forrest
Vice President for Research

September 2011