

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Ningbo Inlight Technology Co., Ltd

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 research agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Lingjie Jay Guo is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”) and a partial owner of Ningbo Inlight Technology Co., Ltd. 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. Lingjie Jay Guo, a Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science – Electrical and Computer Engineering (EECS – ECE Division, is a partial owner of a for-profit company called Ningbo Inlight Technology Co., Ltd (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a project entitled: “Correlation Between Visual Appearance and Microstructures of Synthetic Color Elements” (ORSP #21-PAF01004) in the Department of EECS – ECE Division under the direction of Dr. Guo. The purpose of this project is to develop novel approaches to the design and fabrication of synthetic or structural colors.

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 \$132,743. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes a provision 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. Guo to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to develop novel approaches to the design and fabrication of synthetic or structural colors.

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 Ningbo Inlight Technology Co., Ltd.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rebecca Cunningham  
Vice President for Research

September 2020