Approved by the Regents
September 18, 2025

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Regental Action Required Under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to transact with Motion Sync LLC (University of Michigan Employees, Daniel Sousa Schulman, Stockholder, Partner, Member, and Employee; and Shorya Awtar, Stockholder, Partner, and Member).

Background:

The University of Michigan Mechanical Engineering Department seeks approval to transact with Motion Sync LLC.

Motion Sync LLC was unanimously awarded funds of $16,100 from Fuel Consumer IT, a University of Michigan funding initiative that accelerates faculty/staff-driven innovation, to develop and deploy its novel motion sickness mitigation technology (PREACT) in vehicles on public roads to gather customer feedback and establish a clear path to market.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Daniel Sousa Schulman and Shorya Awtar are employed by the University as a Graduate Student Research Assistant (GSRA) and a Professor with the Mechanical Engineering Department and would be a party to the contract as stockholders, partners, members, and employees of Motion Sync LLC.

However, the Statute allows the university to enter into such contracts if the following conditions are met:

a) The public servant promptly discloses any pecuniary interest in the contract to the official body which has power to approve the purchase, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.

b) The purchase is approved by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the full membership of the approving body in open session without the vote of the public servant making the disclosure.

c) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:

    i) The name of each party involved in the contract.

ii) The terms of the purchase, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the purchase, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the purchase.

iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (c) above:

i) The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Mechanical Engineering Department, and Motion Sync LLC.

ii) The transaction is for a one-time payment from Fuel Consumer IT to Motion Sync of $16,100. Motion Sync LLC will supply the necessary resources and personnel to fulfill this contract. The remaining base contract terms and conditions are typical to those used in Procurement Services standard templates for other similar contracts entered into by the Regents.

iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employees, Daniel Sousa Schulman and Shorya Awtar are stockholders, partners, members, and employees of Motion Sync LLC.

Daniel Sousa Schulman and Shorya Awtar have met state law requirements with the disclosure of their pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisor of Daniel Sousa Schulman and Shorya Awtar under the Mechanical Engineering Department or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

<u>We recommend</u> that the Board of Regents approve the contract between the University of Michigan and Motion Sync LLC subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of Daniel Sousa Schulman and Shorya Awtar or the Mechanical Engineering Department or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey S. Chatas
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

September 2025