

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

EXH	MOTION	<i>Newman</i>
	SECOND	<i>Hayward</i>
	ACTION	APPROVED BY THE REGENTS
NOTE:		OCT 21 2005
the University of Michigan		

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and Soar Technology, Inc.

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by DRDA while reviewing the Proposal Approval Form that then triggered a review of the project 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 and agreed to by the parties involved in this agreement.

The proposed research agreement (Agreement) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Dr. John Laird, is the founder, a board member and a shareholder, of Soar Technology, Inc. and an employee of the University. 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 of the University of Michigan (Regents).

Background:

Dr. Laird, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, is a part owner and officer, of a for-profit company, Soar Technology, Inc. Dr. Laird now wishes to enter into a subcontract with Soar Technology, Inc. under a University research agreement.

Nature of the Project:

The University of Michigan has received a contract from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (FA8650-05-C-7253). The project contains a subcontract to Soar Technology, Inc. to provide analysis, technical interchange and design to the University. Dr. Laird is the Principal Investigator for the project at the University. Dr. Laird will only participate in the project in his capacity as a University employee.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. Dr. Laird will be the Principal Investigator for the project at the University to be conducted over an initial one-year period at an estimated total cost of \$1,106,553 including indirect cost at 53%.

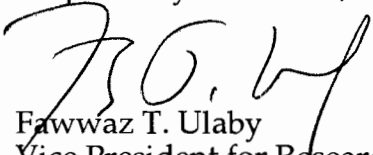
Impact of the Agreement:

The Agreement enables research to be performed to extend the breadth and depth of human behavior that can computationally be modeled in three areas: comprehensive learning, emotion, and perception/ action. It also provides for ongoing support and collaboration between the College of Engineering and a University start-up company.

Recommendation:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee and by the Associate Dean for Research of the College of Engineering. In light of the disclosure made in this document and our finding that the Agreement was negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Regents approve of the University entering into this Agreement with Soar Technology, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



Fawwaz T. Ulaby  
Vice President for Research

October 2005