

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

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

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 agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professors Dennis Sylvester, David Blaauw, David Wentzloff, Prabal Dutta, and Dr. Zhiyoong Foo are all employees of the University of Michigan ("University") and partial owners of CubeWorks, Inc. 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. Dennis Sylvester, a Professor of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (EECS) ECE Division, Dr. David Blaauw a Professor of EECS ECE Division, Dr. David Wentzloff, an Associate Professor of EECS ECE Division, Dr. Prabal Dutta, an Associate Professor of EECS CSE Division, and Dr. Zhiyoong Foo, a Research Fellow in EECS ECE Division, are all partial owners with equity of a for-profit company called CubeWorks, Inc. (the "Company"). The Company wishes to fund a National Science Foundation (prime) SBIR Phase II project entitled "Millimeter-Scale Wireless Sensor Node for Intracranial Pressure Monitoring" (ORSP #16-PAF07104) in the Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science under the direction of Dr. Jamie Phillips. The purpose of this project is to achieve develop a non-volatile memory storage system (Flash chip) that is large enough to store a multi-year lifetime of intercranial pressure (ICP) data, and to benchmark the Flash chip tape out.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately two (2) years. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$251,392. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes 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 Agreement will support an effort by Dr. Phillips to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources, to further develop a sensor node for Intracranial Pressure Monitoring.

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 CubeWorks, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu  
Vice President for Research

October 2016