The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Project Agreements with the University of Michigan

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into or amend Agreements

Preamble:

Statutory conflicts of interest situations were identified by the Conflict of Interest Offices while reviewing Proposal Approval Forms that then triggered a review by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board ("Board") and/or the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee ("Committee"). Plans for management of the possible risks associated with the conflicts of interest will be developed and approved by the Board and/or Committee and may require agreement by the parties involved at time of award.

These proposed projects (e.g., research, sponsored activity, and/or subcontract) agreements ("Agreement") and/or amendments to Agreements ("Amendments") fall under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because University of Michigan ("University") employees have activities, relationships, or interests in the companies as described in Attachment A. The law permits such Agreements provided they are disclosed to the Board of Regents ("Regents") of the University and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreements and/or Amendments conform to University policy. The funding support will not exceed the amount reported in Attachment A for each Agreement and/or Amendment. Since projects are often amended, these Agreements and/or Amendments include 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 Agreements and/or Amendments will provide support of investigator's effort to use their expertise and University laboratories, as well as other University resources, to execute the projects as reported in Attachment A.

Recommendations:

These matters have been reviewed and approved by the Board and/or the Committee. In light of this disclosure and our finding that the Agreements and Amendments were negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University's entering into or amending the Agreements referenced in Attachment A.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Hurn

Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation

November 2026

Attachment

Attachment A

Project #1

Subcontract Agreement between the University and A3 Technologies Inc.

Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee

Title: Fuel Flexible Hall Effect Thruster

U-M Project ID: 27-PAF02514

Direct Sponsor: A3 Technologies Inc.

Prime Sponsor: Defense, Department of-Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency-Subcontracts

Principal Investigator/Department: Benjamin Jorns, Aerospace Engineering

Project Start Date: 1/1/2027

Project End Date: 12/31/2028

Funding Support: $600,000

Purpose: The purpose of the project is to build a flight-like electric propulsion engine that is capable of operating on a wide range of non-conventional propellants.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with A3 Technologies Inc.:

- Tate Gill; Assistant Research Scientist, Aerospace Engineering; Partial Owner
- Benjamin Jorns; Professor, Aerospace Engineering; Partial Owner
- Eric Viges; Senior Engineer In Research/Lab Manager and Test Engineer, Aerospace Engineering; Partial Owner

Project #2

Subcontract Agreement between the University and And Battery Aero Inc.

Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee

Title: MORTAR — Mechanochemically-milled Oxy-fluoRide caThodes with lithium Anode, for high-energy Rechargeable cells

U-M Project ID: 27-PAF01337

Direct Sponsor: And Battery Aero Inc.

Prime Sponsor: Defense, Department of-Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency-Subcontracts

Principal Investigator/Department: Venkat Viswanathan, Aerospace Engineering

Project Start Date: 1/1/2027

Project End Date: 12/31/2029

Funding Support: $1,500,000

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to support And Battery Aero Inc. in the research activities related to mechanochemical synthesis of fluorinated carbon (CFx) and derivatives and to build multi-layer pouch cells.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with And Battery Aero Inc.:

- Venkat Viswanathan; Professor, Aerospace Engineering; Partial Owner

Project #3

Subcontract Agreement between the University and Controlled Light Inc.

Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee

Title: Fiber SPEAR: Fiber-based, low-Swap high Energy Airborne laseR

U-M Project ID: 27-PAF02116

Direct Sponsor: Controlled Light Inc.

Prime Sponsor: Defense, Department of-Navy, Department of the-Subcontracts

Principal Investigator/Department: Almantas Galvanauskas, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science – Electrical and Computer Engineering (EECS-ECE) Division

Project Start Date: 1/1/2027

Project End Date: 12/31/2027

Funding Support: $94,399

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to develop a coherently beam combined (CBC) pulsed fiber laser system capable of producing >10 J and >20 ns pulses at repetition rates variable from single-shot to 40 kHz, with average powers scalable into 10s of kW or more.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Controlled Light Inc.:

- Almantas Galvanauskas; Professor, EECS-ECE Division; Partial Owner

Project #4

Subcontract Agreement between the University and NX Fuels, Inc. (dba Carbon Fuels, Inc.)

Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee

Title: Direct Methanol Photosynthesis from Water and Ambient CO2 over (In)GaN Nanocatalysis Platform

U-M Project ID: 27-PAF03211

Direct Sponsor: NX Fuels, Inc. (dba Carbon Fuels, Inc.)

Prime Sponsor: Defense, Department of-Office of the Secretary-Subcontracts

Principal Investigator/Department: Zetian Mi, EECS-ECE Division

Project Start Date: 1/1/2027

Project End Date: 12/31/2027

Funding Support: $150,000

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to study the technical feasibility of on-site >66% methanol/water fuel production at >0.5 L/h from atmospheric CO2 and water, and to further study the design of a compact system prototype to support the feasibility of the Phase II project goals.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with NX Fuels, Inc. (dba Carbon Fuels, Inc.):

- Zetian Mi; Professor, EECS-ECE Division; Partial Owner

Project #5

Subcontract Agreement between the University and Propel Aero, Inc.

Reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Committee

Title: Light Metal Regenerative Fuel Cell

U-M Project ID: 27-PAF01338

Direct Sponsor: Propel Aero, Inc.

Prime Sponsor: Defense, Department of-Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency-Subcontracts

Principal Investigator/Department: Venkat Viswanathan, Aerospace Engineering

Project Start Date: 1/1/2027

Project End Date: 12/31/2029

Funding Support: $900,000

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to support Proper Aero, Inc. in the research activities related to the development of a regenerative lithium-air fuel cell.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Propel Aero, Inc.:

- Venkat Viswanathan; Professor, Aerospace Engineering; Partial Owner

Project #6

Subcontract Agreement between the University and RET Therapeutics, Inc

Reviewed by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board

Title: Developing small molecule potentiators of RET signaling to treat painful neuropathies

U-M Project ID: 27-PAF03113

Direct Sponsor: RET Therapeutics, Inc

Prime Sponsor: Health and Human Services, Department of-National Institutes of Health-Subcontracts

Principal Investigator/Department: Gabriel Corfas, MM Kresge Hearing Research Ins

Project Start Date: 7/1/2027

Project End Date: 6/30/2030

Funding Support: $1,436,852

Purpose: The University perform preclinical pharmacology studies to evaluate RET Therapeutics' development candidate, RPC047, in biochemical, cellular, and rodent models of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy. Studies will involve in vivo pharmacology studies in cisplatin- and oxaliplatininduced neuropathy models to support dose selection, efficacy characterization, and disease-modification assessment of RPC047.

University Employee; University Title; Relationship with RET Therapeutics, Inc:

- Gabriel Corfas; Professor Of Otolaryngology-Head And Neck Surgery, Medical School; Partial Owner