THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents December 15, 2011

ACTION REQUEST

Subject:

Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and

CSquared Innovations, LLC

Action Requested:

Authorization to enter into Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Division of Research Development and Administration while reviewing the Proposal Approval Form which then triggered a review 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 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 Professor Pravansu Mohanty and Nicholas Moroz are both employees of the University of Michigan ("University") and partial owners of CSquared Innovations, LLC (the "Company"). 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.

Background:

Dr. Mohanty, a professor in Mechanical Engineering, and Nicholas Moroz, a Ph.D. student in Mechanical Engineering, are the partial owners of a for-profit company called CSquared Innovations LLC (the "Company"). The Company was formed recently to commercialize an in-situ plasma/laser hybrid process for the direct synthesis of battery electrodes, has obtained a license from the University of Michigan and now desires to support research at the University of Michigan related to that technology.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the proposed Agreement conform to University policy. Dr. Ben Q Li, Professor and Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering, the University of Michigan-Dearborn will direct the project over an initial six-month period at an estimated cost of \$32,000. Since research projects are often amended, these agreements include provisions for changes in time, amount, and scope of each supported project. 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:

This Agreement will enable further research that will assist the Company and Michigan in developing this process technology.

Recommendation:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. In light of the disclosures made in this document and our finding that the Agreement was negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I <u>recommend</u> that the Board of Regents approve of the University's entering into this Agreement with CSquared Innovations, LLC.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Forrest

Vice President for Research

December 2011