

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and Arborsense, 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 Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and 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 Board and Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professors Xudong Fan, Zhaohui Zhong, and Mark Ilgen are employees of the University of Michigan (“University”), and partial owners of Arborsense, 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. Xudong Fan, a Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Dr. Zhaohui Zhong, an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Mark Ilgen, MD, an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, are partial owners of a for-profit company called Arborsense, Inc. (the Company”). The Company wishes to co-fund a project with the Michigan Strategic Fund the under the Small Company Innovation Program entitled “Developing and Testing a Graphene Biosensor Using Dry Transfer Technique – SCIP-MCRN Match” (ORSP# 18-PAF03025) in the Department of Biomedical Engineering under the direction of Dr. Xueding Wang. The purpose of this project is to utilize University technology described in Office of Technology Transfer File #6050 to explore the utility of dry transfer techniques to reduce cost and enable scalable production of wearable sensors.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately one (1) year. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$22,915. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes a provision 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. Wang to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources to advance wearable sensor technology by reducing costs and improving the efficiency of production.

Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and 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 Arborsense, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Hu', is positioned above the printed name.

S. Jack Hu
Vice President for Research

December 2017