

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

ACTION REQUEST

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 Office of Research and Sponsored Projects while reviewing Proposal Approval Forms that then triggered a review by the Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and/or the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review 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 project (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 Medical School Conflict of Interest Board and/or the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Lupia', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Arthur Lupia
Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation

December 2024

Attachment A

Project #1

STTR Phase I Subcontract Agreement between the University and Fourth State LLC Reviewed by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee	
<u>Project Information</u>	
Title: Controlling discharge power to multiple plasma applicators to scale up plasma processing of liquids	U-M Project ID: 25-PAF02711
Direct Sponsor: Fourth State LLC	Prime Sponsor: U.S. Department of Energy
Principal Investigator/Department: John Foster, Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences	
Project Duration: One (1) Year	Funding Support: \$60,000
Purpose: The purpose of this project is to design and provide computational analysis of the plasma water reactor matching.	
<u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Fourth State LLC</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Foster; Professor, Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences; Partial Owner• Joseph Groele; Intermittent Lecturer, Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences; Partial Owner	

Project #2

STTR Phase I Subcontract Agreement between the University and h-Bar Instruments, LLC Reviewed by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee	
<u>Project Information</u>	
Title: STTR Phase I: Cryo-Electron Microscopy of Biological Systems with Liquid Helium and Cryo-Transfer	U-M Project ID: 25-PAF02475
Direct Sponsor: h-Bar Instruments, LLC	Prime Sponsor: Department of Energy
Principal Investigator/Department: Robert Hovden, Materials Science and Engineering	
Project Duration: One (1) Year	Funding Support: \$115,000
Purpose: The purpose of this project is to produce ultra-cold cryo-TEM holders for biological applications, including adjustments for grid handling and minimizing ice contamination during transfer.	
<u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with h-Bar Instruments, LLC</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robert Hovden; Associate Professor, Materials Science and Engineering; Partial Owner	

Project #3

SBIR Phase I/II Subcontract Agreement between the University and Heat2Power Inc. Reviewed by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee	
<u>Project Information</u>	
Title: Upscaling Air-Bridge Thermophotovoltaics for Thermal Batteries	U-M Project ID: 25-PAF02491
Direct Sponsor: Heat2Power Inc.	Prime Sponsor: National Science Foundation
Principal Investigator/Department: Stephen Forrest, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science – Electrical and Computer Engineering (EECS – ECE) Division	
Project Duration: Three (3) Years	Funding Support: \$300,000
Purpose: The purpose of this project is to work jointly on the design of the 1 kW panels that are the objective of Phase II based on the results of this Phase I workplan and validate the ability to produce a 50 kW, 1 m2 panel.	
<u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Heat2Power Inc.</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stephen Forrest; Professor, EECS – ECE Division; Partial Owner• Andrej Lenert; Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering; Partial Owner	

Project #4

Amendment to Research Agreement between the University and Tuebor Energy, Inc. Reviewed by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Review Committee	
<u>Project Information</u>	
Title: Optimization and of Aramid Nanofiber Separators for Batteries Year 2	U-M Project ID: 25-PAF02083
Direct Sponsor: Tuebor Energy, Inc.	
Principal Investigator/Department: Nicholas Kotov, Chemical Engineering	
Agreement Initially Approved by the Regents: September 21, 2023	
Original Project Duration: Five (5) Months Additional Time: Eighteen (18) Months	Initial Funding Support: \$205,905 Additional Funding Support: \$342,671
Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to add time and funds so that Dr. Kotov may continue to work on (1) the development of aramid nanofiber (ANF) materials for ion-selective membranes for batteries; (2) testing for conditions as specified by Tuebor Energy, Inc.; and (3) the development scalable manufacturing process for ANF-based separators.	
<u>University Employee; University Title; Relationship with Tuebor Energy, Inc.</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nicholas Kotov; Professor, Chemical Engineering; Partial Owner	