

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and EMAG Technologies, 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 Professor Kamal Sarabandi is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and a partial owner of EMAG Technologies, 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. Kamal Sarabandi, a Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, is the partial owner of a for-profit company called EMAG Technologies, Inc. The Company wishes to fund a Department of Defense – Army (prime) STTR Phase II project entitled “Stochastic Electromagnetic/Circuit Analysis” (ORSP# 16-PAF05675) in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science under the direction of Dr. Eric Michielssen. The purpose of this project is to enhance a previously developed computational framework with the goal of reducing the number of simulations required to accurately predict the presence of unwanted electromagnetic interference, and to develop guidelines for allowing a determination of optimal tradeoffs between iterations and cost per iteration.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately twenty-four (24) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$375,000. 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. Michielssen to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources to advance the state of the art in miniaturized radio communications technologies.

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 EMAG Technologies, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu
Vice President for Research

April 2016