

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and Inmatech, 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 Levi Thompson, Paul Rasmussen and Dr. Saemin Choi are employees of the University of Michigan ("University"), and partial owners of Inmatech, 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. Thompson, a Professor in the Departments of Chemical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Rasmussen, a Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and Macromolecular Science and Engineering, and Dr. Choi, a Lead Engineer in Research in the Department of Chemical Engineering, are partial owners of a for-profit company called Inmatech, Inc. (the "Company"). The Company wishes to fund a Department of Defense (prime) STTR Phase I project entitled "Inmatech Hybrid Energy Storage" (ORSP #15-PAF05416) in the Department of Mechanical Engineering under the direction of Dr. Jason Siegel. The purpose of this project is to develop and assess the performance of a Hybrid Energy Storage (HES) system based on low cost, high performance supercapacitors from Inmatech, Inc. and commercially available Li-ion batteries.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately six (6) months. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$50,007. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes provisions for changes in time, amount, 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. Siegel to use his expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources to design the HES architecture combining battery and supercapacitors with the associated control electronics, and identify design factors and sizing critical to performance enhancement and optimization, and demonstrate the proof-of-concept.

## 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 Inmatech, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu  
Interim Vice President for Research

May 2015