

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents

June 19, 2008

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and Soar Technology, Inc.

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. This triggered a review of the project 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.

The proposed agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Dr. John Laird is both an employee of the University of Michigan ("University") and an owner of Soar Technology, Inc. ("SoarTech"). 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. John Laird is a Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in the College of Engineering and an owner of Soar Technology, Inc. SoarTech wishes to enter into a subcontract with the University to enable Hemant Sardar and David LeBlanc, both Assistant Research Scientists at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, to act as Principal Investigator and Participating Investigator, respectively.

Nature of the Agreement:

SoarTech has applied for an award from the Defense Advanced Projects Agency for the purpose of investigating vehicular sensor systems and imminent collision detection. If awarded, SoarTech wishes to enter into a subcontract with the University to enable Hermant Sardar and David LeBlanc to assist in the performance of this funded research.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is anticipated to be eight (8) months and the amount of funding support is anticipated to be \$49,500.

Impact of the Agreement:

The Agreement will support an effort by Drs. Sardar and LeBlanc to further develop sensor-processing algorithms within a cognitive framework that allows them to address both sensor and environmental issues affecting the government prime sponsor.

Recommendation:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. In light of the disclosure made in this document and our finding that the agreement was negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve of the University's entering into this Agreement with Soar Technology, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Forrest", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen R. Forrest
Vice President for Research

June 2008