

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Regental Action Required Under the State of
Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to transact with SkySpecs, LLC (University of
Michigan Employee, Samuel DeBruin, Owner)

Background:

The University of Michigan Aerospace Engineering Department seeks approval to purchase ten units of custom quadrotor platforms from SkySpecs LLC ("SkySpecs"). These products are required for a new lab course titled ROB 550 (Robotics 550). The robotics students will need the ability to mount their own custom robotic gimbal/manipulator attachments as an integral part of the course. They will also require access to the code so they can program custom functions into the platforms. SkySpecs products provide access to these codes. Other suppliers of quadrotor platforms contain proprietary components and are designed as "closed systems" that are difficult to customize, upgrade or repair.

The proposed agreement falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Samuel DeBruin is a University employee as a PhD Student being paid by an NSF funded fellowship with the College of Engineering and would be party to the agreement as Owner of SkySpecs.

However, the Statute allows the University to enter into such agreements if the following conditions are met:

- a) The public servant promptly discloses any pecuniary interest in the contract to the official body which has power to approve the purchase, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.
- b) The purchase is approved by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the full membership of the approving body in open session without the vote of the public servant making the disclosure.
- c) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:
 - i) The name of each party involved in the contract.
 - ii) The terms of the purchase, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the purchase, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the purchase.
 - iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

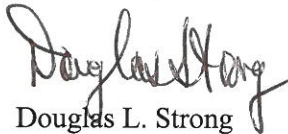
The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (c) above:

- i) The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Aerospace Engineering Department and SkySpecs.
- ii) The agreement is for the purchase of ten units of custom quadrotor platforms that robotics students need for a new lab course titled ROB 550. The total cost of the agreement is \$25,200.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, Samuel DeBruin is the Owner of SkySpecs.

Samuel DeBruin has met state law requirements with the disclosure of his pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable under the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the agreement between the University of Michigan and SkySpecs subject to requirements, if any, that either the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas L. Strong
Interim Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

September 2014