

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents

September 18, 2008

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Master Agreement between the University of Michigan and Mayaterials, 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 by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflicts of interest was developed by the Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed master agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Dr. Richard Laine is an employee of the University of Michigan ("University") and a part owner of Mayaterials, Inc. ("Company"). 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. Richard Laine, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, is both an employee of the University and a part owner of a company called Mayaterials, Inc. The Company has had various previously approved agreements with the University including subcontracts to and from the University under federal grants. The Company wishes to have the University participate in various projects that the Company will support independently or from grants from federal agencies related to artificial organ technology. The role of Dr. Laine in each project will be described in a project statement and a conflict of interest management plan.

Agreement Terms:

The University will enter into a master agreement with the Company that will cover standard procedures for performance of projects as well as provisions implementing University and federal policies related to intellectual property and publication. The master agreement will cover an initial five-year period with a

total authorization not to exceed \$1,000,000. The University will use standard sponsored project accounting procedures to determine the cost of each project. Budgets will be reviewed and approved by authorized representatives of each department and school/college where projects are to be performed. The Company has supported sixteen projects at the University since its inception. The master agreement will allow the University and the Company to specify projects that the University will conduct under the terms of the master agreement. Since research projects are often amended, the master agreement includes provisions for changes in time, amount, and scope of each supported project. University procedures for approval of each project will be followed and additional review by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee will be done on a project-by-project basis.

Impact of the Agreement:

The master agreement will enable research to be performed in a timely manner to explore and further develop novel materials, their applications and related technologies. It also provides for ongoing support and collaboration between the University and a University start-up company.

Recommendation:

These matters will be reviewed by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee, and a plan will be developed to manage the potential conflict of interest risks associated with each project that will be implemented under the terms of the master agreement prior to the University's acceptance of any individual project. In light of the disclosure made in this document and our finding that the master agreement is negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve of the University entering into this master agreement with Mayaterials, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen R Forrest  
Vice President for Research

September 2008