

SUBMISSION FORM

University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation  
MUSP 407

This form is to be submitted with any Board of Regents item whereby a campus seeks the approval of an agreement with or arrangement regarding an employee pursuant to 20-25-109 MCA and Regents Policy 407.

When the submission concerns matters of trade secrets or confidential business information, or any other matter entitled to privacy under state or federal law (e.g., the federal statute known as Bayh/Dole) the submitting campus may request consideration of the submission, in whole or in part, in executive session.

The submitting campus should also provide the Commissioner a copy of the contract(s) that form the basis for the cooperative arrangement for which approval is sought. Submission of the contract does not indicate a conclusion that all or part of the contract is a public document and the question of whether it is in whole or in part protected from public disclosure will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

- 1. Summarize the nature of the intellectual property that was developed by the employee seeking approval. Indicate the sources of funding for the research that resulted in this invention.

A formal invention disclosure is in progress and related copyrights will be registered for the development of a new software program called "River Analyzer" that integrates airborne and satellite remote sensing data with on the ground data to assess issues related to river restoration from habitat assessment and quantification to river bank erosion potentials, bed scour and expected channel migration and change. This new program and its use has been the result of several years of research and applied work funded collectively by a number of different sources, including the National Science Foundation, PPL-MT, Wildfish Conservancy.

- 2. a. Name(s) of the university employee(s) involved.

Dr. Mark Lorang

- b. Name(s) of business entity(ies) involved.

Applied Coastal and River Science, Inc., a Montana corporation

- 3. The university and employee(s) are seeking approval for (check as many as appropriate):

- a. The employee to be awarded equity interest in the business entity.

b. The employee to serve as a member of the board of directors or other governing board of the business entity.

c. The employee to accept employment from the business entity.

4. How will approval of this relationship contribute to the objectives of the university's technology transfer and intellectual property development programs?

By allowing this University-private sector relationship to be established, intellectual property established and developed by the University faculty can be used to grow a faculty spin-off company, it will set an example for other entrepreneurs from the University looking for opportunities for commercialization of their innovations and creations, and it will generate revenue and goodwill for the University and its employees, in addition to the Montana private business development sectors.

The benefits to U of M and the State of Montana arising from current and proposed research activities of Applied Coastal and River Science, Inc. are:

Dr. Lorang will use this new software tool as part of a class "River Restoration and Remote Sensing Applications" to be taught at the University as well as to be taught as part of a short course aimed at professionals working in the field of river restoration in accordance with the 2010 Strategic Plan of the University of Montana. He wants to work with the University to copyright and commercialize the software program. His intention is to continually develop River Analyzer as his research progresses throughout the tenure of his career at the University.

Applied Coastal and River Science, Inc. will be responsible for software programming, distribution of the program, trouble shooting, updating with new versions and addressing future customer questions and help. Agreements on specific relationships between Applied Coastal and River Science, Inc., and UM are in the early stages of development.

Although the potential of this software program are deemed high, at this time specific revenue streams have not been fully projected. The relationship with Applied Coastal and River Science, Inc., brings a new and prospectively highly productive collaboration to U of M. It will allow for advancing and developing River Analyzer through hiring U of M students involved in river research, mathematics, marketing and computer science, as well as continued collaborations and research support with colleagues in those departments, the Flathead Lake Biological Station and the River Center on the University campus. This is a unique opportunity to broaden the research and entrepreneurial landscape at U of M and the region, to prospectively realize technology transfer revenue streams, and to provide potential for desired local and regional economic development.