

September 15-16, 2021

ITEM 196-2007-R0921

Request for Approval of University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation under MUSP 407-Wittie and Millman; Montana State University

THAT

The Board of Regents of Higher Education approves Montana State University employees Mike Wittie and David Millman to have an equity interest in and to serve as employees of BLOCKY, Inc. The Board of Regents of Higher Education further authorizes Montana State University to enter into licensing agreements and contractual arrangements with BLOCKY, Inc. for use of University facilities, if needed.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Mike Wittie is an Associate Professor for the Gianforte School of Computing at MSU. Dr. David Millman is an Assistant Professor for the Gianforte School of Computing at MSU. They seek approval to hold an equity interest in and to serve as an employee of BLOCKY, Inc., established to further develop intellectual property.

Wittie and Millman will work in accordance with a Conflicts Management Plan developed by the MSU Office of Research Compliance. Under Policy 407 and MCA 20-25-109, university employees must have board approval to serve as officers, employees, or members of a governing board of a business entity, or to hold an equity interest in a business entity which has an agreement with, or share ownership of intellectual property with, the university, relating to the development, licensing or commercial exploitation of that intellectual property. All License Agreements (and possible future licenses as provided for by Option Agreements) issued by the MSU Technology Transfer Office are contingent upon BOR 407 approval.

MSU and MUS will benefit from this approval, including in-state economic development, technical advancements, and collaborative research opportunities for the University and its students.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Submission Form