On August 22, 2012, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) adopted a Conflict Minerals rule as mandated by Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to reduce a significant source of funding for armed groups committing human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This rule applies to manufacturers who file periodic reports with the SEC and who manufacture products containing conflict minerals. Conflict Minerals are defined as tantalum, tin, tungsten and gold (3TG).

The University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW) is a public university, not a publicly traded manufacturer. Therefore, we are not required by The Act to submit reports to the SEC regarding Conflict Minerals compliance. The UW-Space Science and Engineering Center (UW-SSEC) does not directly source Conflict Minerals from mines, smelters or refiners, and is, in most cases, several levels removed from these market participants. UW-SSEC therefore requires the cooperation of its suppliers to implement this policy. UW-SSEC will implement a compliance program for Conflict Minerals as required by the customers it supports.

To address compliance, UW-SSEC will conduct the following activities for customers requiring a Conflict Minerals compliance program:

- Train key personnel on Conflict Minerals compliance.
- Identify which products manufactured at UW-SSEC and supplied to customers contain 3TG.
- Assess/survey suppliers of 3TG parts/components used in products supplied to customers for Conflict Mineral compliance. This applies to current products, modifications to current products and new products.
- Use only components from suppliers that have a Conflict Minerals policy/program.

If you have any questions concerning this policy, its implementation or potential non-compliances, please contact the UW-SSEC, Quality Assurance and Safety group.

Sincerely,

R. Bradley Pierce
SSEC Center Director