



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I03010003/ Case Closeout

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The National Science Foundation Office of Inspector General (NSF/OIG) received an anonymous letter alleging that a small-business research company¹ received awards for research efforts that were similar or identical to proposals that had already been funded by other agencies. According to the complainant, many proposals contain falsified technical data to increase the chances of receiving awards and convince investors to invest spin-off companies.

I interviewed the NSF Program Officer² who advised that s/he could not provide any insight into the allegations but felt that the company produced good work.

Our office conducted a search and retrieved abstracts awarded by NSF and other federal agencies to the research company. The search identified a DARPA and NSF final report that contained approximately 70% of overlap.

The NSF research occurred before the DARPA research. Therefore, it appears that the NSF award supported new research but the DARPA award did not. I contacted the Department of Defense (DOD) Office of Inspector General to discuss the overlap between the DARPA and NSF proposals. I was informed that DOD as well as National Aeronautics and Space Administration and United States Army Criminal Investigative Division had received the allegations and have open cases involving the company.

DOD was the victim agency and not NSF. Accordingly, this case is closed.

¹ Footnote redacted

² Footnote redacted