



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-11040021

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We received information from DOE-OIG that there may be overlapping research between a Department of Energy SBIR Grant and a NSF SBIR Grant to a company.¹ The owner and CEO of the company is also a professor² at a local university³ where he conducted similar research.

When the SBIR proposals were compared, we found that they contained similar background materials, but that the research had different objectives. We then focused on the relationship between the company and the university and found that the university professor had properly disclosed his relationship with the company to university officials. It appears that there is a separation between the company and the university, and the university is managing the potential conflict of interests with the professor.

DOE-OIG notified us that they were closing their file because there does not appear to be clear evidence of wrong doing by the company. We agree that there is no clear wrong doing.

This case is closed with no further action taken.

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