

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** September 27, 1996

**TO:** Case No. I93110047

**FROM:** [REDACTED] Special Agent [REDACTED]

**VIA:** [REDACTED] Special Agent-in-Charge [REDACTED]

**RE:** Possible Duplicate Funding at [REDACTED]

On November 16, 1993, we received an allegation that [REDACTED] a company which had received 18 awards from NSF under the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, received duplicate SBIR awards from two federal agencies. Specifically, an NSF SBIR panel reviewer alleged that ATM submitted a phase I SBIR proposal to the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (SDIO) in 1991 entitled, [REDACTED] and that a substantially similar proposal was submitted to NSF in 1992 entitled [REDACTED]. Both proposals were awarded, and final reports were submitted to the respective agencies. However, after reviewing these proposals and final reports, we found that there are significant differences and that they are not duplicate.

Nonetheless, because of the similarities between the two, we requested further ATM award documentation from the Department of Defense (DoD), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Department of Energy (DOE). S/A [REDACTED] U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI), and S/A [REDACTED] NASA Office of Inspector General (NASA OIG), assisted us in gathering documentation. The file has remained active pending review of this documentation.

Upon their receipt, the following proposals and final reports were reviewed for possible duplication and were subsequently found to be substantially different and non-duplicating:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Award Title</u>
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SDIO	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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ARMY	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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NSF	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
DOE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
ARPA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

USAF	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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SDIO	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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In October 1994, an additional 100+ ATM proposals which had been selected for award by NSF, NASA, DOE, and DoD, were reviewed by S/A [REDACTED] using OSI document scanning technology. S/A [REDACTED] found no duplication among these proposals. Finally, we reviewed the following proposals and final reports for possible duplication and found them to be reporting directly related research, and in some cases overlapping research, but not duplicate research:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Award Title</u>
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NSF	[REDACTED] (Ph. I)	[REDACTED]
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NASA	[REDACTED] (Ph. I)	[REDACTED]
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	NARS-25932 (Ph. II)	[REDACTED]
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NSF	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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DOE	[REDACTED] 3-1	[REDACTED]
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SDIO	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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As of this memo, NASA OIG and OSI have found no evidence of fraud but are continuing their investigation of this company. As we have found no evidence to establish the existence of duplicate awards involving NSF funding, further investigation is not warranted at this time.

This case is closed.