

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

Close out - [REDACTED]
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OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 27, 1998

To: File No. I97080038 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Special Agent, Investigations Section

Through: [REDACTED] Special Agent-in-Charge, Investigations Section

Re: Close out - [REDACTED]

Background:

On August 1, 1997, our office received a referral from the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS), Mid-Atlantic Field Office, that the Boston, MA DCIS office was currently investigating a case involving [REDACTED] a research company located in Somerville, MA, which participates in the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. [REDACTED] has received 22 SBIR awards from NSF, 6 of which were Phase II awards. We reviewed [REDACTED] federal awards to determine if they had received funding for duplicate proposals.

Investigation:

We reviewed all of the abstracts of SBIR awards received by [REDACTED] from federal agencies. In doing so, we found various abstracts that appeared to be similar, which suggested the possibility that these abstracts were from duplicate proposals submitted to different federal agencies.

We found that a Department of Energy (DOE) funded award entitled [REDACTED] appeared to have a similar abstract, keywords, and/or title to two NSF funded projects entitled "[REDACTED]" which received Phase II funding, and "[REDACTED]"

We requested and received copies of the DOE proposals and final reports and compared these to the NSF proposals and final reports. Our review concluded that these were not duplicative submissions.

Conclusions:

We have found no evidence of fraud or other criminal activities. DCIS and the Department of Energy (DOE) are still reviewing evidentiary documents and investigating [REDACTED] We have informed these agencies of our findings.

This case is closed at this time.