

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL**MEMORANDUM**

Date: January 26, 1999

To: File I97090047

Thru: [REDACTED] Assistant Inspector General for Investigations

From: [REDACTED] Special Agent

RE: Closeout- [REDACTED]

Background

On July 21, 1997, NSF-DMR forwarded an e-mail complaint to NSF-OIG Investigations regarding [REDACTED] Phase I SBIR grant (estimate: \$74,998). The complainant alleged that [REDACTED] had failed to provide the complainant, [REDACTED] University [REDACTED] a subcontractor for [REDACTED] samples of [REDACTED] to evaluate, as listed in the SBIR award. [REDACTED] personnel claimed in the e-mail complaint that the "SBIR is over and I have not received one sample."

Investigation

The investigation revealed that [REDACTED] had encountered difficulties in synthesizing adequate quantities of the [REDACTED] compound essential for its work. As a result, the [REDACTED] compound had not been forwarded to its subcontractor, [REDACTED] for evaluation. ART had requested a no cost extension to its Phase I grant and received an extension through February 28, 1998.

[REDACTED] had further difficulties in synthesizing the essential [REDACTED] compound and requested another no cost extension. NSF-DMI refused [REDACTED] the additional extension and requested that [REDACTED] return unexpended funds and submit a final report. [REDACTED] had received \$49,998 of the projected \$74,998 from NSF and returned a check for the unexpended funds in an amount of \$36,481 on July 30, 1998. [REDACTED] submitted its final report on September 21, 1998. NSF-DMI Program Manager [REDACTED] closed out the award on September 25, 1998 due to [REDACTED] inability to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated in the Phase I SBIR proposal."

Conclusions

There is no evidence of criminal misconduct on the part of [REDACTED] notified the NSF program manager of its difficulties in accomplishing its research objectives and returned the unused portion of its award when requested by the NSF program manager. Based on these findings this case is closed.