



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I10120059

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We opened this case pursuant to a proactive review of small business concerns receiving SBIR/STTR awards from multiple federal agencies. Based on our review of proposals submitted by a small business¹, we identified potentially duplicative proposals submitted to NSF and other federal agencies². We interviewed an NSF Program Director³ regarding the potential similarities between two projects⁴. Based on his/her review of the proposals, the NSF Program Director stated he/she would not have funded the NSF proposal had he/she known about the other grant because the research objectives were too similar. Other agencies' Program Managers established similarities between additional proposals submitted by the small business.

We referred the matter to the USAO⁵ and the matter was accepted for criminal prosecution and civil litigation. We executed search warrants and conducted interviews; however, we were unable to substantiate the allegation. Based on the information obtained during interviews, we met with the NSF Program Director again, who retracted his/her initial statements regarding the similarity of the two proposals.

The USAO declined the matter.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

[REDACTED]