



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I08100052

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During a proactive review searching for plagiarism within SBIR proposals, we identified a proposal from a company that appeared to contain text copied without proper attribution. We identified the PI of that proposal as an individual who had previously been investigated by our office for receiving duplicative funding from multiple agencies, and who was not prosecuted for that conduct due to statute of limitations.

We opened a joint investigation with NASA OIG and HHS OIG, and reviewed company proposals, reports, financial records, and other publicly available information. We found evidence that the company had received duplicate funding from multiple agencies for the same work, budgeted funds for employees that were paid to the PI and his family members instead, and submitted fabricated letters of support in grant proposals.

The case was referred to a U.S. Attorney's Office and accepted for criminal prosecution. The PI was indicted for wire fraud and aggravated identity theft before pleading guilty to one count of submitting false statements to the government.

The PI was sentenced to one year of probation and forfeited over \$100,000. At our recommendation, NSF debarred the PI and his company for four years.

This case is closed with no further action taken.