



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I15070039

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We opened this case to investigate whether a PI¹ made false statements to NSF with respect to his affiliation with the third-party investor² listed in an SBIR Phase IIB proposal.³

Based on our review of documents obtained from the PI's company,⁴ we determined the grantee company and the third-party investor had an arms-length relationship. During that review, we also noticed that the company did not maintain timesheets during the Phase II award period, as required and represented to NSF during a pre-award financial review. We referred this matter to the U.S. Attorney's Office, which declined prosecution in lieu of available administrative remedies.

We recommended NSF withhold the final payment on the Phase II award,⁵ and NSF concurred. We also issued a questionable administrative practices (QAP) letter to the PI reiterating NSF's timekeeping requirements.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

