



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-18-0007-O

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We proactively identified a company that graduated from the I-Corps Program and subsequently received SBIR funding. We initiated an investigation into the company because the PI appeared to be a university faculty member that was not primarily employed by the awardee company. We substantiated the allegation and found that the PI falsely certified to meeting the primary employment requirement in an initial award payment request and submitted an awarded supplemental proposal as an ineligible PI. Based on these findings, we recommended to NSF that the agency withhold the final payment to the company. NSF implemented this recommendation, resulting in nearly \$50,000 in funds put to better use. We also referred the matter to the U.S. Department of Justice, which accepted the case for prosecution. The U.S. Department of Justice ultimately entered into a non-prosecution agreement with the PI, under which the PI repaid nearly \$130,000 in base award and supplemental funding the company received from NSF.

This case is closed with no further action taken.