



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-21-0040-O

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We received an allegation that the PIs had copied text from an instrument brochure into their NSF Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program proposal. The proposal was for the acquisition of the instrument about which the PIs had copied text describing the instrument's capabilities. We confirmed there is text copied verbatim from the instrument brochure. However, there is no substantive copying from other sources.

Given the situation, it is likely the reviewers recognized the text was from the manufacturer's brochure, as the complainant did. Nevertheless, the PIs should have cited the brochure as the source of their text and paraphrased the description and capabilities. We sent the PIs a questionable practice letter advising them to more carefully cite non-original material. This case is closed and no further action will be taken.