



U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION **Office of Inspector General**

Case Closeout Memorandum

OIG Case Number I-24-0008-O | January 15, 2025

We received an allegation of a violation of confidentiality by a reviewer (Reviewer) who participated in a site visit of an NSF-funded project. Our investigation found the Reviewer disclosed confidential information he received during the site visit in a proposal he submitted to another Federal agency. We further found the Reviewer used this confidential information for his personal benefit to detail technological challenges that his own proposed work would solve. The Reviewer admitted he copied material from a document he obtained during the site visit into his proposal and that he referred to the site visit in his proposal.

Based on the evidence, we recommended NSF take appropriate administrative action. NSF prohibited the Reviewer from serving as an NSF reviewer, advisor, or consultant for 5 years. NSF also told the Reviewer to disclose to other Federal agencies, for which he is requested to review proposals or participate in site visits during this period, that he is prohibited from serving as a reviewer, advisor, or consultant for NSF.

This case is closed with no further action taken.