



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-10030023

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We identified a Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) proposal, awarded with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, with plagiarized text. We contacted the company that had submitted the proposal, finding that the company president had no knowledge of the award or the PI. Subsequent investigation found that the company owner had falsely certified that the PI had been primarily employed by the company, provided a false accounting of award expenditures, and used a significant portion of the award funds for personal expenses. The company owner was indicted on multiple counts of false statements, false claims, wire fraud, and conversion, found guilty of a majority of the charged counts at trial, and sentenced to probation and restitution. We recommended that the company owner be debarred, and NSF concurred, debarring the subject for five years. A civil complaint was filed following the criminal conviction, and the court ruled in favor of the government's motion for summary judgment, resulting in an order for the company owner to repay treble damages to the government.

This case is closed with no further action taken.