



U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION Office of Inspector General

Case Closeout Memorandum

OIG Case Number I-23-0025-O | May 21, 2025

We opened this investigation after an NSF OIG proactive initiative identified evidence that an NSF Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II awardee violated the requirement that all SBIR research and development be conducted in the United States. Specifically, our investigation confirmed that the Principal Investigator (PI) and owner falsely certified to NSF that all research had been performed in the United States, when in fact, the PI was overseas for nearly 11 months during the award's period of performance. The PI also admitted that the company did not properly track employees' time and effort during the award period. The investigation was referred to and accepted by the Department of Justice, and the company entered into a False Claims Act settlement for \$524,947.

This case has been ***closed***, and no further action will be taken.