



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-12-10-0072

Page 1 of 1

This investigation was initiated based on information indicating that a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I<sup>1</sup> awardee<sup>2</sup> may have falsely certified in its proposal that it was at least 51% owned or controlled by individuals who are citizens of the United States, or by an entity owned or controlled by U.S. citizens.

We gathered relevant information and conducted interviews of company officers, U.S. Small Business Administration officials, and NSF program personnel. We referred our investigative findings to the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) for the Northern District of Ohio (NDO). As a result of negotiations between the SBIR company's attorneys and the USAO/NDO, a civil Settlement Agreement was executed on April 23, 2015, in which the company agreed to pay the United States \$287,968<sup>3</sup> in exchange for a release of claims under the False Claims Act.

Accordingly, this investigation is closed.

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