



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I15080046

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We received an allegation that a senior investigator and co-owner¹ of a company² receiving an NSF SBIR award³ was a foreign national in the U.S. on a non-work visa.⁴ We determined that, although the foreign national was a minority owner of the company⁵ and performing work under the award, he did not receive a salary from the NSF funds.

The owner of the company/PI⁶ of the award consulted accountants and attorneys prior to expending funds under the award. In addition, he has been corresponding with the appropriate NSF program office about the situation.⁷ In addition, the foreign national is in the process of seeking an appropriate visa, and per the PI, will not be paid from NSF funds until he has obtained the proper documentation. Consequently, it appears that NSF funds were not misused; and the PI is taking steps to ensure that any future funds allocated to the foreign national will follow the appropriate rules and regulations.

This case is closed with no further action taken.

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