October 3, 2022

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

In accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 638b(c), this letter transmits the U.S. Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General’s (OIG’s) report of the requested data and information regarding cases related to the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program for fiscal year (FY) 2022.

During FY 2022, OIG received one referral pertaining to fraud, waste, and abuse with respect to the SBIR and/or STTR programs. Subsequently, OIG opened four actions relating to the SBIR program to include one proactive analysis investigation of SBIR awards made by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Institute of Standards and Technology; two preliminary investigations into NOAA SBIR recipients; and one formal investigation into a NOAA SBIR recipient. A total of five investigative actions remain in an open investigative status as of the date of this letter.

OIG did not close any cases during FY 2022 in which fraud, waste, or abuse was “determined to have occurred” regarding an SBIR program investigation. OIG’s estimated FY 2022 expenditures involving SBIR program investigations to date was $30,100; no funds were recovered or saved as a result of OIG’s SBIR-related activities.
If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact me at (202) 793-3336 or Scott Kieffer, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, at (202) 893-8770.

Sincerely,

Peggy E. Gustafson
Inspector General