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Department of Justice
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Longwood Scientist Ordered To Pay \$199,825 To NASA For Wire Fraud

Orlando, Florida – U.S. District Judge G. Kendall Sharp has ordered Donatus E. Asumu (52, Longwood) to pay \$199,825 in restitution to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for wire fraud committed against the agency. The Court also ordered him to forfeit a Nissan automobile, a traceable proceed of the offense. In addition, Asumu was sentenced to serve one year of probation, including 45 weekends at the Brevard County Work Camp, and six months of home confinement. During the sentencing hearing, the Court made a finding that Asumu, who was represented by the Federal Public Defender, was not indigent and must pay back attorney's fees pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act.

According to the plea agreement, between 2009, and continuing through 2012, Asumu, as president and owner of Aligned Concepts, LLC ("ACL"), fraudulently obtained two Small Business Innovation Research ("SBIR") contracts from NASA valued at \$199,825. He obtained the contracts by, among other things, (i) falsely representing to NASA that certain individuals would work certain hours on the contracts, when in fact those individuals did not work or perform any tasks on the contracts; (ii) falsely representing to NASA that he was not employed full-time by another organization, when in fact he was; (iii) falsely representing to NASA that ACL was a legitimate Small Business Concern (SBC); and (iv) falsely submitting invoices to NASA for work that was certified as complete per contract terms, when in fact ACL did not perform the work per those terms.

This case was investigated by NASA, Office of the Inspector General. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ilianys Rivera Miranda.

Financial Fraud

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Updated April 20, 2015