

Summary: Investigation of Confederate Group LLC, d.b.a. Total Barrier Works and United Native Technologies, Inc.

Report Date: February 2, 2016

OIG investigated allegations that a National Park Service (NPS) contractor, that was ineligible for contracts under the Small Business Administration (SBA) 8(a) Business Development Program, used another company as a pass through company to obtain 8(a) contracts under false pretenses.

Early in the investigation, we discovered apparent SBA eligibility fraud involving not only the NPS contract identified in the complaint, but also in a significant number of contracts held by the U.S. Air Force. We conducted the investigation jointly with SBA OIG and the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI).

We found that Wesley Burnett and Yogesh Patel conspired and committed more than \$1.8 million in fraud against the Government using Burnett's company, Confederate Group LLC, d.b.a. Total Barrier Works (TBW), and Patel's company, United Native Technologies (UNTI). We discovered that Burnett submitted bids on behalf of Patel, with Patel's knowledge, on 8(a) set-aside contracts, which are contracts awarded without competition to companies that meet certain criteria. Burnett bid on the contracts using UNTI's 8(a) contract eligibility, and was subsequently awarded the contracts. TBW, however, which was not 8(a) eligible, performed all of the work. Burnett and Patel both made it appear that UNTI performed at least 51 percent of the work, which would have made the contract legitimate, but UNTI did not perform any of the work. In return for using UNTI's status as an 8(a) vendor, Burnett paid Patel approximately 4.5 percent of the contract value.

We presented our findings to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland, which accepted the case for prosecution. Following Federal indictments, both Burnett and Patel pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Burnett was sentenced to 42 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release. Burnett agreed to forfeit \$694,893, of which \$242,089 was his sole responsibility and \$452,804 he shared jointly with Patel.

Patel was sentenced to 21 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release. Patel agreed to forfeit \$554,541, of which \$101,736 was his sole responsibility and \$452,804 he shared jointly with Burnett.

Both Burnett and Patel were debarred from Government contracting and from directly or indirectly receiving benefits from any Federal assistance programs until 2022 and 2019, respectively.

This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued to the National Park Service for any action deemed appropriate. We did not require a response.

