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Tender

## **Safeguarded AI: Theory**

ADVANCED RESEARCH AND INVENTION AGENCY

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-011717

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-045144

Published 11 April 2024, 9:28am

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

ADVANCED RESEARCH AND INVENTION AGENCY

96 EUSTON ROAD,

LONDON

NW12DB

#### **Email**

[clarifications@aria.org.uk](mailto:clarifications@aria.org.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UKI31 - Camden and City of London

#### **Justification for not providing organisation identifier**

Not on any register

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.aria.org.uk/programme-safeguarded-ai/>

**I.3) Communication**

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://www.aria.org.uk/programme-safeguarded-ai/>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://www.aria.org.uk/programme-safeguarded-ai/>

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

General public services

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**Section II: Object**

**II.1) Scope of the procurement**

**II.1.1) Title**

Safeguarded AI: Theory

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 73110000 - Research services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

ARIA is an R&D funding agency built to unlock scientific and technological breakthroughs that benefit everyone. We empower scientists and engineers to pursue research at the edge of what is technologically or scientifically possible.

We reach across disciplines, sectors and institutions to shape, fund and manage projects across the R&D ecosystem, from startups to universities, to break down silos and discover new pathways.

We're looking for proposals for Safeguarded AI: Theory, for info see <https://www.aria.org.uk/programme-safeguarded-ai/>

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 73110000 - Research services

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

As AI becomes more capable, it has the potential to power scientific breakthroughs, enhance global prosperity, and safeguard us from disasters. But only if it's deployed wisely.

Current techniques working to mitigate the risk of advanced AI systems have serious limitations, and can't be relied upon empirically to ensure safety. To date, very little R&D effort has gone into approaches that provide quantitative safety guarantees for AI systems, because they're considered impossible or impractical.

By combining scientific world models and mathematical proofs we will aim to construct a 'gatekeeper', an AI system tasked with understanding and reducing the risks of other AI agents.

In doing so we'll develop quantitative safety guarantees for AI in the way we have come to expect for nuclear power and passenger aviation.

Our goal: to usher in a new era for AI safety, allowing us to unlock the full economic and social benefits of advanced AI systems while minimising risks.

For more info see <https://www.aria.org.uk/programme-safeguarded-ai/>

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £2,900,000

### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

12

This contract is subject to renewal

No

### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

Additional funding, scope and duration could be added to any contracts awarded.

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## **Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

### **III.1) Conditions for participation**

#### **III.1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers**

List and brief description of conditions

See ARIA website <https://www.aria.org.uk/programme-safeguarded-ai/>

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Competitive procedure with negotiation

#### **IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Date

28 May 2024

Local time

12:00pm

#### **IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted**

English

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: No

### **VI.3) Additional information**

Detailed timelines can be found in the programme call information on ARIAs website:  
<https://www.aria.org.uk/programme-safeguarded-ai/>

The application process consists of one stage:

- Submission of a proposal - the deadline for submission of proposals is 28.05.24 (12:00 BST).

The total funding value is the estimated budget available. We expect to fund multiple applicants.

Funding is anticipated to be award via both contracts and grants. For information on how we fund <https://www.aria.org.uk/faqs-funding/>

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

Not Applicable, see the ARIA Act 2022

London

Country

United Kingdom