This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/018247-2024

Tender

Scaling compute: AI at 1/1000th the cost (Technical Area 4)

ADVANCED RESEARCH AND INVENTION AGENCY

F02: Contract notice
Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-018247
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-046f93
Published 12 June 2024, 5:17pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

ADVANCED RESEARCH AND INVENTION AGENCY

96 EUSTON ROAD,

LONDON

NW12DB

Email

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/

I.3) Communication

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

https://www.aria.org.uk/scaling-compute/

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/scaling-compute/

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Scaling compute: AI at 1/1000th the cost (Technical Area 4)

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73430000 - Test and evaluation

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 our Scaling compute: AI at 1/1000th the cost programme for info see http://aria.org.uk/scaling-compute

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

The digital electronics industry that has transformed our lives in immeasurable ways is defined by the simple fact that, for 60+ years, we have benefited from exponentially more computing power, at lower cost.

This fact is no longer true. For the first time in history, increased performance requires increasing costs and this coincides with an explosion of demand for more compute power driven by AI.

Our current mechanisms for training AI systems utilise a narrow set of algorithms and hardware building blocks, which require significant capital to develop and manufacture. The combination of this significance and scarcity has far-reaching economic, geopolitical and societal implications.

What we're shooting for:

We see an opportunity to draw inspiration from natural processing systems, which innately process complex information more efficiently (on several orders or magnitude) than today's largest AI systems.

Our goal: to increase + open up new vectors of progress in the field of computing by reducing the cost of AI hardware.

In doing so, we'll open up new opportunities to reap the economic + social benefits of AI, from accelerating scientific research to improving the efficiency of our public services.

In this Request for Proposals, we are looking for teams to submit proposals for Technical Area (TA) 4, as outlined here http://aria.org.uk/scaling-compute

TA 4 represents the test and evaluation component of the programme. Applicants for TA 4 will be asked to develop testing frameworks which can be used to evaluate Creator outputs through the lifecycle of the programme.

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: £830,000

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

Duration in months

36

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

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

26 June 2024

Local time

12:00pm

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

English

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/scaling-compute.

The application process for Technical Area 4 consists of one stage. The deadline for proposals is 26 June 2024 (12:00 BST).

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

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Not Applicable, see the ARIA Act 2022

London

Country

United Kingdom