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Tender

# Robot Dexterity

ADVANCED RESEARCH AND INVENTION AGENCY

F02: Contract notice
Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-021052
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-047c39
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## 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

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/robot-dexterity/

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/robot-dexterity/

## 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

Robot Dexterity

### 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 our Robot Dexterity programme, for more information see here https://www.aria.org.uk/robot-dexterity/

### II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

## II.2) Description

### II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

### II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Why this programme

Breakthroughs in AI are transforming robotic abilities, but compared to staggering advances in computation, the development of robot bodies has stalled in recent decades. Today, robots cannot achieve the flexibility, speed and precision of human manipulation, rendering them useless for many of the difficult or dangerous tasks where we need them most.The need to improve robot dexterity comes at a critical time. The proportion of the world's population aged 65+ is set to triple by 2100, while labour deficits for physically demanding work are set to increase.Robots have the potential to ease these labour shortages and boost prosperity - advanced robotics with dexterous manipulation could add an estimated 4% to global productivity - but to do so we must close the gap between what robots and humans can handle.

What we're shooting for

Just as biological bodies and nervous systems evolved together, this programme will aim to exploit advanced simulation to learn the optimal design for a robot body at the same time as optimal control. Our goal: to release the bottlenecks in robotic dexterity,

demonstrating a paradigm-shift in robotic abilities and creating vastly more capable and useful machines.

For more information, see here https://www.aria.org.uk/robot-dexterity/

**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: £52,000,000

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

Duration in months

54

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.

# 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

19 September 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/robot-dexterity/

The application process for Technical Areas 1, 2 and 3 consists of two stages:

- Submission of a concept paper - At this stage and based on your concept paper, you will either be encouraged/ discouraged to submit a full proposal. If you receive feedback indicating that you are not encouraged to submit a full proposal you can still choose to submit a full proposal. You should note that this preliminary assessment/encouragement provides no guarantee of any full proposal being selected for award of funding.

The deadline for submission of concept papers is 24.07.24 (12:00 BST).

- Submission of a full proposal - the deadline for submission of full proposals is 19.09.24 (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