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Tender

Safeguarded AI: Technical Area 3 Applications

ADVANCED RESEARCH AND INVENTION AGENCY

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-024772

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-047a89

Published 7 August 2024, 9:29am

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/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

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Safeguarded AI: Technical Area 3 Applications

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy 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 will 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 are looking for proposals for our Safeguarded AI: Theory programme. For more info see here <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)

- 48000000 - Software package and information systems

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Through TA3, we will look to demonstrate a 'gatekeeper' workflow that could be used to create and maintain decision-support tools and/or safeguard autonomous AI systems to solve specific, economically valuable challenges.

As part of this work, teams will elicit functional and non-functional requirements from customers for a proposed product, then outline simplified versions for very concrete use cases. These specifications will serve as the benchmark evaluations for our entire research programme, as we'll look to develop AI systems specifically tailored to solve them.

A full set of applications will be determined after the TA3 solicitation, but some applications we're currently considering include: energy system optimisation; infectious disease epidemiology, climate and weather prediction; aircraft and spaceflight dynamics; and control systems for robots in human environments.

The solicitation will run in two phases:

Phase one: In the initial phase, we'll distribute funding to deeply understand customer needs and elicit requirements, this may include: sourcing datasets, designing evaluation suites to validate the performance of predictive models and autonomous or semi-autonomous controllers.

Phase two: Successful teams (estimated 2-4 groups total) will then advance to the second phase, where they will receive significant funding to apply the tools developed in the other Technical Areas to their application domain.

Our thesis Safeguarded AI: constructing guaranteed safety (<https://www.aria.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/ARIA-Safeguarded-AI-Programme-Thesis-V1.pdf>) gives a detailed overview of how this workstream compliments the whole programme.

ARIA Creators (recipients of ARIA's funding), gain access to the programme's research community, ARIA's programme leadership and wider community.

You can find out more here <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.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

15

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.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2024/S 000-020406](#)

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

Date

2 October 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/programme-safeguarded-ai/>

The deadline for submission of a full proposal is October 2024 (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