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Tender

## AI Scientist Call

Advanced Research and Invention Agency

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-065310

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05cc96

Published 14 October 2025, 4:05pm

## Scope

### Description

To help guide and shape how ARIA thinks about AI Scientists, we are inviting proposals for a series of short exploratory projects, to be undertaken using AI Scientists. We are specifically looking for AI systems that are able to perform the full end-to-end workflow of scientific knowledge creation. This call will be backed by up to £3M and targets awards of up to £500K with a maximum duration of 9 months

### Total value (estimated)

- £417,000 excluding VAT
- £500,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

### Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 January 2026 to 30 September 2026
- 9 months

## **Options**

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

Ability to extend for additional months

## **Main procurement category**

Services

## **CPV classifications**

- 73110000 - Research services

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## **Participation**

### **Particular suitability**

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

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## **Submission**

**Enquiry deadline**

7 November 2025, 11:59pm

**Submission type**

Tenders

**Tender submission deadline**

14 November 2025, 2:00pm

**Submission address and any special instructions**

<https://www.aria.org.uk/ai-scientist/funding>

**Tenders may be submitted electronically**

Yes

**Languages that may be used for submission**

English

**Award decision date (estimated)**

28 November 2025

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## Award criteria

Name	Type
AI Scientist System Capability & Automation	Quality
Ambition, Clarity, and Suitability of the Research Problem	Quality
Value for ARIA's Learning and Future Strategy	Quality
Cost	Cost

## Weighting description

See tender document on <https://www.aria.org.uk/ai-scientist/funding>

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## Other information

### Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

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## Procedure

### Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

### Competitive flexible procedure description

See call document on <https://www.aria.org.uk/ai-scientist/funding>

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## Contracting authority

### Advanced Research and Invention Agency

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PVHN-2521-XHNQ

5 Beaconsfield St

London

N1C 4EW

United Kingdom

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

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Organisation type: Public authority - central government