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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

Participation

Particular suitability

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

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

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>

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Competitive flexible procedure description

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

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

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Organisation type: Public authority - central government