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General Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and provide input into the National AI R&D 2025 Strategic Plan. There are several summary suggestions I would like to make and could make myself available for follow-up if desirable.

1. The potential to cultivate a further sustained advantage for the United States is real and important that we capture -- in order to defend the values that hold us together. Machine intelligence has the power to fundamentally transform lives, communities, global relations, and society.
2. The priorities of the country should be national defense, education and healthcare -- but also human welfare. Any dislocation will create pain in equal measure to the opportunity it unlocks. Everyone needs a pathway to benefit and needs the motivation to do so. The key question is how people reinvest the time (and new capability) machine intelligence provides. We want them to have freedom within the law to do so. Regardless we want that reinvestment to be productive.
3. The amount of R&D taking place in the private sector is awesome to see. Up until several years ago the publicly disclosed nature of this discovery was also unique in human history. However, for both defensive and offensive reasons, commercial labs are sharing less and less.
4. There is a risk that regulation will encourage sufficient transparency to fulfill a control mandate. An equally important focus needs to be a form of encouraged transparency (at least among allies) that will propel and foster even greater advances. Cross organization collaboration has fueled progress to date and is crucial to continuing our national advantage.
5. Immigration (and attractive life opportunities) are crucial to sustaining our lead in machine intelligence. Attracting Asia and Europe's best/brightest must be a top priority. Self-interest is what attracts the world's best talents to our shores. For leaders who can contribute to our leadership, an accelerated path to citizenship and integration should be encouraged.
6. There will be gaps in the R&D patchwork that competition creates and we have already seen the shift from foundational discovery to exploitation (I mean that in a good way) expected of commercial entities. However, a concentration of power can ultimately reduce innovation if we are not careful. Job mobility and encouraging entrepreneurial endeavors are important elements of keeping R&D "young." We need not just a one time strategy but a continual effort to ask (a) where is financial and human capital flowing and (b) where should we back-bet and (c) where should we extend/add investment.
7. People need an instinct to get the most out of machine intelligence. Exposure should be in the home and in the classroom. Commercial interests will make sure it is in the workplace. Repeated and continuous exposure are critical for this new instinct to develop. This needs to be an important part of the agenda.
8. Of course the energy supply chain is crucial to the technological advances. We need this to not just focus on the urban centers, but the rural ones as well. The deficits in rural communities are huge in many ways -- motivation being the most obvious one -- so extra effort is needed to bring rural communities onto this flywheel.
9. This wave of machine intelligence uses natural language to interface with us. Trust has to be part of that relationship and early efforts work hard to make sure the AI is convincing. Which means it can deceive -- intentionally or not. A major focus in AI has to be detecting and preventing deception by AI or human/AI polymers. AI plays a key role is detection and prevention of deception in its own ilk.
10. Machine intelligence can enable us to get back to "craft" in our lives. But assisting in the oversight, supervision, and intermediation -- personal fulfillment can be increased through purpose via craft. Medical doctors and programmers can get closer to their craft. However, technology can alienate us further from craft and purpose if we are not careful. This is choice.

Michael Bernaski

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