

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

Received: May 29, 2025 Tracking No. mb9-ql7u-9jhh Comments Due: May 28, 2025 Submission Type: Web

Docket: NSF-2025-OGC-0001
NITRD_FRDOC_0001

Comment On: NSF-2025-OGC-0001-0001
Request for Information: Development of a 2025 National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan

Document: NSF-2025-OGC-0001-DRAFT-0232
Comment on FR Doc # 2025-07332

Submitter Information

Organization: Henry Samueli School of Engineering, University of California, Irvine

General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

UCI-HSSOE-AI-RFI-2025

Request for Information on the Development of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Plan

Name of person filing the response: Prof. Andrei Shkel, Associate Dean of Research and Innovation

Organization filing the response: Henry Samueli School of Engineering, University of California, Irvine

Recommended Policy Action #1: Establish Data Centers that Standardize Data Input and Output for Training AI Models

Description

High-quality, standardized data is critical for the accuracy, reliability, and effectiveness of AI models. Many scientific and technological fields currently lack well-curated, domain-specific data sources, leading to inconsistencies and reduced effectiveness of trained AI models. Establishing dedicated data centers that provide verifiable, high-quality datasets is essential for advancing AI applications across industries. These datasets should be publicly accessible to promote transparency and innovation.

Beyond standardized input data, ensuring that AI model outputs are verifiable is equally important. Recent efforts, such as DeepSeek outputs being benchmarked against ChatGPT, demonstrate the need for domain-specific verification methods. Developing “etalons” or reference benchmarks tailored to specific scientific and engineering domains will enable robust AI performance assessment.

Key Considerations

1. **Data Quality Control & Standardization:** Implementing standardized protocols for data collection, validation, and curation to ensure consistency, accuracy, and reliability in AI training.
2. **Strategic Data Collection:** Addressing gaps in experimental datasets through improved methodologies for data acquisition, ensuring AI models receive comprehensive and representative training inputs.

Use Cases

1. **AI-Driven Materials Discovery:** AI can accelerate the synthesis of new materials by computationally predicting viable candidates before physical validation, significantly reducing costs and development time. As the U.S. faces increasing global competition in materials science innovation, access to high-quality experimental datasets is crucial for maintaining technological leadership and national security.
2. **AI for Biomolecular and Cellular Engineering:** AI-driven design of biomolecules, especially sequence-encoded biopolymers like nucleic acids and proteins, requires access to extensive, high-quality datasets to accurately predict and

engineer desired functionalities. Extensive standardized datasets, including novel experimental approaches to generate such datasets, will improve model performance and accelerate advancements in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare. AI can also be used to program cells, enabling them to precisely respond to medical treatment targets. Beyond advancing healthcare, AI-driven cell engineering will be instrumental for improving food production, by optimizing the quality and quantity of crops and livestock.

Recommended Policy Action #2: Establish Policies that Facilitate Synergy Among Humans, Cyber-Physical Systems, and AI

Description

Time series data for machine learning at the edge of cloud computing is essential to understanding the dynamic interaction between human and cyber-physical systems as well as to accelerating the adoption of edge AI for improving individual quality of life and socioeconomic impacts. High-quality, standardized time-series data is critical for the accuracy, reliability, and effectiveness of edge AI models. Many scientific and technological fields currently lack well-curated, domain-specific data sources, due to the proprietary and privacy nature of the data. Integrating AI with human expertise and advanced hardware systems is essential for optimizing manufacturing, national security, and autonomous systems. AI-driven automation, combined with human oversight, enhances efficiency, accuracy, and adaptability in complex environments.

Key Considerations

1. **Manufacturing Technologies:** Policies should facilitate collaboration between equipment manufacturers, software developers, and foundry companies to enable AI-driven decision-making at the edge. AI-enhanced automation should complement human expertise to develop new technologies or to improve productivity, reduce contamination risks, and enhance cost-efficiency in existing ones.
2. **Human-Machine Teaming:** Trustworthy AI systems can serve as decision aids in critical applications that involve, e.g., warfighters where situational awareness and rapid response capabilities are needed. Policies should promote the integration of data from both humans and autonomous machines (e.g., robots with autonomous sensors), so that AI can be used to enhance decision-making and real-time adaptation to adversarial threats.

Use Cases

1. **AI-Enhanced Semiconductor Manufacturing:** Real-time AI-driven robotic systems, combined with human expertise, can optimize wafer process flow for enhancing productivity, improve equipment utilization, and process defect

detection, and reduce material waste and ensure energy-efficient AI, strengthening U.S. leadership in semiconductor manufacturing.

2. **Autonomous Systems in National Security:** AI-powered autonomous systems can support military operations by analyzing real-time sensor data, predicting adversarial movements, and assisting warfighters in dynamic combat environments.

By prioritizing high-quality data standardization and fostering AI-human collaboration, the U.S. can drive innovation, maintain technological leadership, and enhance national security.

The following is a list of individuals engaged in developing this response, which is an outcome of the Exploratory Workshop: AI Action Plan held by UC Irvine's Samueli School of Engineering on February 24, 2025.

Prof. Mohammad Al Faruque, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

Prof. Plamen Atanassov, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering

Prof. Ramin Bostanabad, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

Prof. Stacy Copp, Materials Science & Engineering

Prof. Russell Detwiler, Civil & Environmental Engineering

Prof. and Dean Magnus Egerstedt, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, Stacey Nicholas Dean of Engineering

Prof. Sitao Huang, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

Prof. Solmaz Kia, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

Prof. Hyoukjun Kwon, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

Prof. Abraham Lee, Biomedical Engineering

Dr. Helen Lee, Director of Research Development

Prof. Guann Pyng (G.P.) Li, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

Prof. Zhou Li, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

Prof. Chang Liu, Biomedical Engineering

Prof. Mohammad Javad Abdolhosseini Qomi, Civil & Environmental Engineering

Prof. Maxim Shcherbakov, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

Prof. Andrei Shkel, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, Associate Dean for Research & Innovation

Prof. Yasser Shoukry, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

Prof. Camilo Vélez Cuervo, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

Prof. Farzin Zareian, Civil & Environmental Engineering

This document is approved for public dissemination. The document contains no business-proprietary or confidential information. Document contents may be reused by the government in developing the AI Action Plan and associated documents without attribution.