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Request for Information: Development of a 2025 National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan

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Submitter Information

Organization: Primus Partners

General Comment

On behalf of Primus Partners Inc., a global management consulting firm headquartered in India with offices in the U.S., U.A.E. and Saudi Arabia (KSA), with deep expertise in AI and Technology Policy formulation, digital transformation and AI-driven public sector innovation, we thank the Office of Science and Technology (OSTP) and the National Coordination Office (NCO) for inviting public comment on the 2023 National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development (R&D) Strategic Plan. We support and appreciate the plan's overall direction and strategic priorities and welcome the opportunity to enhance its impact by offering targeted feedback and recommendations grounded in our applied experience, forging public-private partnerships and advancing international AI collaborations.

1. Institutionalise AI "Sandbox" Procurement Accelerator

We suggest that OSTP consider supporting the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)[1][2] in piloting an AI "Sandbox" Procurement Accelerator as a complementary sub-strategy under Strategic Goal 8. Such a Sandbox would serve as a collaborative environment where agencies and selected technology providers work side-by-side, benefiting from provisional contracting pathways and scoped compliance flexibilities. By co-locating acquisition officers, policy advisors, technical experts, and end users, the Sandbox could enable rapid, iterative testing of commercial AI solutions—whether for logistics optimization, predictive maintenance, or public-health analytics—while capturing lessons on governance, security, and performance. Over time, insights from these pilots could help refine government-wide guidance, streamline procurement processes, and reduce risk before agencies commit to large-scale deployments.

2. Establish Public - Private Ethics & Safety Observatory

We recommend consideration of a standing, federated Ethics & Safety Observatory co-sponsored by OSTP in collaboration with industry consortia as a forum for voluntary, anonymized sharing of real-world AI incident data. This platform could collect reports on issues such as algorithmic bias, privacy breaches, or unexpected system failures from both commercial and government deployments. Regular analytical summaries would surface emerging risk trends, inform updates to voluntary consensus standards, and guide interagency discussions on safety and fairness. By fostering transparent dialogue among private-sector partners, civil-society experts, and regulators, the Observatory would help translate operational experiences into practical policy refinements and research priorities, while reinforcing public confidence in responsible AI development.

3. Incentivized Open-Source Challenge Prizes

We propose exploring partnerships with philanthropic and industry foundations to host a series of open-source challenge prizes focused on interoperable toolchains for bias detection, adversarial robustness, and model explainability. Rather than pursuing proprietary solutions, this approach would encourage multidisciplinary teams to deliver production-ready toolkits under permissive licenses, ensuring broad availability for academic researchers, small labs, and government stakeholders.

Challenge themes might include fairness auditing for high-stakes decision systems, simulation frameworks for security testing, and standardized explainability libraries for large-scale models. By aligning financial incentives with open-license requirements and real-world evaluation criteria, such a program could accelerate the maturation of AI governance tools and promote shared best practices aligned with federal security and privacy expectations.

4. Bilateral AI Testbed Sharing Agreements

We recommend OSTP explore the potential for bilateral memoranda of understanding (MoU) with key international counterparts - such as the European Commission, Japan's METI, and India's NITI Aayog - to enable federated access to complementary AI testbeds. Under this framework, U.S. and partner-nation researchers could collaborate on resources ranging from climate-model simulation grids to autonomous-systems platforms, all governed by harmonized data-stewardship and export-control protocols. Periodic technical exchanges and co-development workshops would foster mutual learning, optimize infrastructure use, and strengthen collective capacity to address shared challenges, whether in environmental resilience, transforming healthcare, transportation automation, or advanced manufacturing - while avoiding duplicative investments.

Attachments

RFI_NSF_2025_AI_RD_Plan_PrimusPartners

Response to the *Request for Information on the Development of a 2025 National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research and Development (R&D) Strategic Plan*

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Conclusion

Primus Partners recognizes the 2023 National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan as an essential foundation for the U.S. leadership in AI. Its comprehensive framework - spanning foundational research, ethical guardrails, workforce development, and collaborative mechanisms has been instrumental in catalysing public-private and academic partnerships. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to its refinement and expansion, ensuring the 2025 Strategy builds directly upon this strong groundwork.

We welcome the opportunity to partner with OSTP, NITRD, NCO, and industry and academic partners to work together in this spirit of shared purpose of positioning the United States as the global leader in responsible AI research and development and socially beneficial AI applications, advancing equity, safeguarding public trust, and driving inclusive prosperity over the next five years.

REFERENCES

- [1] U.S. General Services Administration, "Procuring Artificial Intelligence Solutions", Apr 9, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://www.gsa.gov/technology/government-it-initiatives/artificial-intelligence/procuring-ai-solutions>
- [2] The White House, "White House Releases New Policies on Federal Agency AI Use and Procurement" Article, Apr 7, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/04/white-house-releases-new-policies-on-federal-agency-ai-use-and-procurement/>