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General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

RFI_AIRD_RAI-CC

Response to the Request for Information on the Development of a 2025 National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan submitted by Utah's Responsible AI Community Consortium.

Contributing authors include Penny Atkins and Manish Parashar from the University of Utah with support from members of Utah's Responsible AI Community Consortium. The response builds on the Consortium's response to RFI 2025-02305 (90 FR 9088), Development of an AI Action Plan.

Introduction

Over the next three to five years, the United States federal government must prioritize funding for AI research and development (R&D) to support gold-standard science, drive responsible innovation, enhance economic and national security, promote human flourishing, and maintain dominance in AI. Such investments should be established on innovative models for public-private partnerships (across government, academia and foundations, and industry). Our response to the RFI on the Development of an AI Action Plan highlighted the importance of building an AI innovation ecosystem on three foundational principles: **Responsible Innovation**, **Public-Private Partnerships**, and **Accessible Innovation Infrastructure**. Our previous response was founded on and highlighted the policies, mechanisms, and experiences that underlie Utah's blueprint for an AI-enabled future. This response focuses on the specific need for public-private partnerships in AI R&D applications and the importance of metrics and testbeds in quantifying the risks and benefits of AI-powered solutions.

The Role of Public-Private Partnerships

Federally funded research in AI and related technologies, complementing industry and other investments, remains critical to future foundational and translational breakthroughs in AI, to ensuring AI leadership, and to realizing the potential impact of the technology on gold-standard science, national security, and economic development. However, such research investments must be conducted within a framework of translation and public-private partnerships, where the potential impacts of foundational and use-inspired research are deliberate and achieved through a well-defined translational process. The integration of the academic research culture of scientific discovery with industry's inherent strengths in translation, applications, and impact must be the basis of future AI innovation ecosystems.

Public-private partnerships are a critical characteristic of our innovation ecosystem in Utah, which is currently and will continue to enable fundamental and translational advances in AI, development of an AI-ready workforce, and creation of accessible infrastructure to support AI R&D. The importance of mechanisms to develop and sustain

public-private partnerships in AI R&D must be an inherent consideration in the future strategy and cannot be left as an afterthought.

Metrics and Testbeds for AI Innovation

Realizing AI innovation ecosystem powered by public-private partnerships essentially requires the development of metrics to objectively quantify performance and inform future developments, and testbeds to enable innovation in a sandbox environment. Metrics provide mechanisms to assess the quality (accuracy, transparency, explainability, speed) and risks (privacy, bias, hallucinations) of new and existing solutions. Testbeds can support the exploration of AI-powered solutions, while mitigating risks and evaluating safety. Together, metrics and testbeds can help accelerate AI-driven innovation for safe societal impacts.