

Response to Request for Information on the Development of an Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Action Plan

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Establishing a Department of Technology for AI Governance

To effectively navigate the opportunities and challenges presented by artificial intelligence (AI), the U.S. must establish a **Department of Technology** led by elected technology officials. This structure ensures transparency, accountability, and alignment with national priorities, fostering AI innovation while safeguarding ethical standards. Given AI's growing role in critical infrastructure, economic competitiveness, and national security, a dedicated governance body is necessary to guide policy and investment effectively.

1. AI Hardware and Infrastructure

Policy Action:

- Establish **federal funding programs** to support AI hardware development, including domestic semiconductor manufacturing and high-performance computing systems, with an initial investment of \$5 billion .
- Develop **public-private partnerships** to build and maintain energy-efficient AI data centers, integrating small modular reactors (SMRs) for sustainable power, with a 60-40 government-industry investment split.
- Create a **national AI infrastructure roadmap** to ensure widespread access to computing resources for researchers, startups, and government agencies, with oversight by the newly created Department of Technology.

2. AI Model Development and Open-Source AI

Policy Action:

- Promote **open-source AI initiatives** with government-backed funding and regulatory frameworks to prevent monopolization of AI technologies, ensuring accessibility across industries.
- Develop **federal standards for AI model transparency and ethical use**, aligning with NIST guidelines to enhance fairness, security, and accountability.
- Mandate **AI model validation processes** to verify performance, safety, and risk mitigation before deployment in critical sectors, with certification overseen by an independent regulatory body.

3. Cybersecurity, Data Privacy, and AI Safety

Policy Action:

- Implement **mandatory AI security risk assessments** for all federally deployed AI systems, overseeing, correcting, and modifying recommendations from CISA and NIST.
- Strengthen **data privacy laws** by amending the Federal Data Protection Act to explicitly regulate AI-driven data collection and usage .
- Establish a **National AI Safety Board** to investigate and mitigate AI-related security threats and breaches, modeled after the National Transportation Safety Board.

4. National Security and Defense Applications of AI

Policy Action:

- Require **democratic oversight of AI defense applications** through regular congressional briefings and independent audits, ensuring adherence to ethical military AI standards.
- Develop **international AI defense cooperation agreements** with allied nations to align security protocols and prevent or mitigate an AI arms race .
- Ensure **AI autonomy limits in warfare**, mandating human oversight in all military AI decision-making processes, as outlined in the U.S. Department of Defense's AI Ethical Principles.

5. Regulation, Governance, and Technical Standards

Policy Action:

- Establish a **Technology Ethics and Standards Office** within the proposed Department of Technology to oversee AI regulations and compliance, coordinating with agencies such as the FTC and DOJ.
- Mandate **transparent reporting requirements** for companies developing AI systems with national security or critical infrastructure implications, ensuring accountability through public disclosures.
- Create **adaptive regulatory frameworks** that evolve alongside AI advancements, incorporating annual review mechanisms to prevent bureaucratic stagnation.

6. Research, Education, Workforce Development, and Innovation

Policy Action:

- Fund **AI-focused STEM education programs** at all academic levels to build a robust AI-skilled workforce, with \$2 billion allocated to K-12 and university-level AI education initiatives.
- Establish **AI innovation hubs** in collaboration with universities and industry leaders to accelerate research and commercialization, modeled after DARPA's AI investments .
- Implement **AI retraining programs** for workers displaced by automation, offering incentives for businesses that support workforce transitions through AI upskilling initiatives.

Summary

A Department of Technology led by elected officials will provide a structured and accountable governance model for AI development in the U.S. This proposal aligns with the goals outlined in the AI Action Plan RFI by ensuring **transparency, security, and innovation** in AI governance. Through these policy actions, the U.S. can maintain its leadership in AI while safeguarding national interests and public trust. A balanced approach between regulation and innovation will empower the private sector while ensuring AI's ethical and safe development.

For further inquiries or collaboration, please contact: technology@department.email