



October 26, 2018

## **RFI Response: National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan**

### **Joint Society Response**

*Attn: Faisal D'Souza*

The undersigned organizations collectively represent more than 200 institutions and more than 100,000 computing professionals engaged in computing and computing research. We write today as representatives of the computing research community in broad support of the NITRD NCO and Select Committee efforts to revise the 2016 National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research and Development Strategic Plan (2016 National Plan).

We also wish, specifically, to endorse comments on the Plan submitted on behalf of Computing Research Association's Computing Community Consortium (CCC) in response to the September 26, 2018 Request for Information issued by the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) National Coordination Office (Document 2018-20914).

While AI has already demonstrated great utility in addressing many pressing challenges in industry and the sciences, it remains far from a "solved problem." As the CCC comments note, the science underlying truly reliable, replicable, and scalable AI-based systems is still very much needed. Indeed, we believe that continued and robust Federal support for fundamental research remains critical if the United States is to achieve that goal.

As the comments also note, the CCC is leading a community-wide effort to produce a comprehensive "roadmap" of the nation's AI research effort modeled after the community-led effort that produced a similar Robotics Roadmap ten years ago. That effort, in turn, catalyzed the National Robotics Initiative: a multi-agency, multi-year investment by the Federal government in robotics that continues to pay practical and theoretical "dividends" today. We hope that the NITRD NCO and the Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence will find the new AI Roadmap, once complete, a valuable input into the process of updating of the 2016 National Plan.

Our organizations thank you for the opportunity to comment and are eager to work with you from the outset of this important work.

Endorsed by

**Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)**  
**Association for Computing Machinery US Technology Policy Committee**  
**Computing Research Association (CRA)**  
**Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)**

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### **Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)**

*Founded in 1979, the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) (formerly the American Association for Artificial Intelligence) is a nonprofit scientific society devoted to advancing the scientific understanding of the mechanisms underlying thought and intelligent behavior and their embodiment in machines. AAAI aims to promote research in, and responsible use of artificial intelligence. AAAI also aims to increase public understanding of artificial intelligence, improve the teaching and training of AI practitioners, and provide guidance for research planners and funders concerning the importance and potential of current AI developments and future directions. [aaai.org](http://aaai.org)*

### **Association for Computing Machinery US Technology Policy Committee**

*ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery, is the world's largest and longest-established association of computing professionals representing approximately 50,000 individuals in the United States and 100,000 worldwide. Its US Technology Policy Committee is charged with providing policy and law makers throughout government with timely, substantive and apolitical input on computing technology and the legal and social issues to which it gives rise. <https://www.acm.org/public-policy/ustpc>*

### **Computing Research Association (CRA)**

*CRA's mission is to enhance innovation by joining with industry, government and academia to strengthen research and advanced education in computing. CRA executes this mission by leading the computing research community, informing policymakers and the public, and facilitating the development of strong, diverse talent in the field. [cra.org](http://cra.org)*

### **Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)**

*SIAM fosters the development of applied mathematics and computational methodologies needed in various application areas. Applied mathematics, in partnership with computational science, is essential in solving many real-world problems. Through publications, research and community, the mission of SIAM is to build cooperation between mathematics and the worlds of science and technology. [siam.org](http://siam.org)*