

ARIA Activation Partners

MAXIMISING THE IMPACT OF SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS

In summary

In spring 2024, ARIA will be launching a request for proposals for Activation Partners. Aimed at galvanising entrepreneurial talent/community and driving translation/venture creation within and across our [opportunity spaces](#), this work is integral to the success of our mission. In line with the importance of this workstream to ARIA, we will provide substantial funding for partners to work on designing, activating and catalysing bespoke science entrepreneurship activities across our opportunity spaces.

We're currently looking for feedback to help shape our approach – dive in below and give us your thoughts through the form linked at the bottom of this document.

Who we are & why we exist

ARIA is a new kind of R&D funding agency. We fund scientists and engineers to pursue research at the edge of the possible. ARIA was established by the UK Government in January 2023 with high levels of autonomy – granted via the [ARIA Act](#). From climate change to AI, society faces enormous challenges and opportunities that can be uniquely addressed by science and technology. ARIA was created to activate the UK's world-class R&D in new ways, so we can meet these head on.

The opportunity: context

ARIA's mission is to unlock scientific and technological breakthroughs that benefit everyone. To fulfil our mission, those breakthroughs must translate into impact – we believe the strongest driving force for translation will be ambitious, risk-taking science entrepreneurs, as well as companies positioned to advance R&D. In other words, ARIA cannot succeed unless science entrepreneurship* is a key part of our approach.

**We define entrepreneurship to mean ambitious organisation builders and value creators, regardless of whether that is philanthropic/non-profit or for profit.*

The opportunity

In spring of this year, we intend to launch a funding opportunity for Activation Partners. We will fund a set of partner organisations to galvanise entrepreneurial talent/community and drive translation/venture creation within and across our opportunity spaces. As part of this, you'll interact with and build ties with the other partners, be that through informal or formal collaborations. In line with ARIA's mission, this work will have a UK focus, but applicants do not have to be based in the UK to be eligible. Our expectation is that these partnerships will run for an initial three-year period, with an option to extend.

Who you are

We don't want to set hard constraints on the type of organisation we will work with (and anticipate we'll end up partnering with organisations which look quite different from one another) You might be a: nonprofit organisation, fellowship programme, seed stage science/deeptech investor, incubator/accelerator, venture creator, philanthropic fund, R&D company, a combination of these, or something else.

What we do know is that you care deeply about:

- Scientific/technical talent identification and development
- Turning scientific breakthroughs into real-world applications
- High-impact venture creation
- Intentional community/network building

What you'll do

As an Activation Partner, you'll leverage our funding to carry out new activities within the research areas we're exploring. We expect that this will have a greater-than-the-sum-of-its-parts impact for both ARIA and the UK – but of course any activity needs to align with your expertise and incentives.

We'll welcome proposals where our funding can be catalytic and leveraged to do bigger things than you're able to do right now. We want to be led by your instincts and experience but, to spark ideas, here are some indicative examples of things we could imagine our partners doing across our opportunity spaces:

- Identify/build talent pipelines and design ways to empower them
- Run a dedicated series of convenings
- Establish a moonshot R&D arm of your organisation
- Provide commercial insights and connectivity
- Run a dedicated venture creation programme or sub-programme
- Create an entrepreneurial science talent fellowship
- Support relevant early-stage venture building
- Spend time with our Programme Directors, helping them build network/community and unlock opportunities for translation/wider impact

We'd like to hear from you

As part of our discovery process – we're currently looking for feedback to help shape our approach. If this opportunity sounds interesting, we'd love to hear from you [here](#).