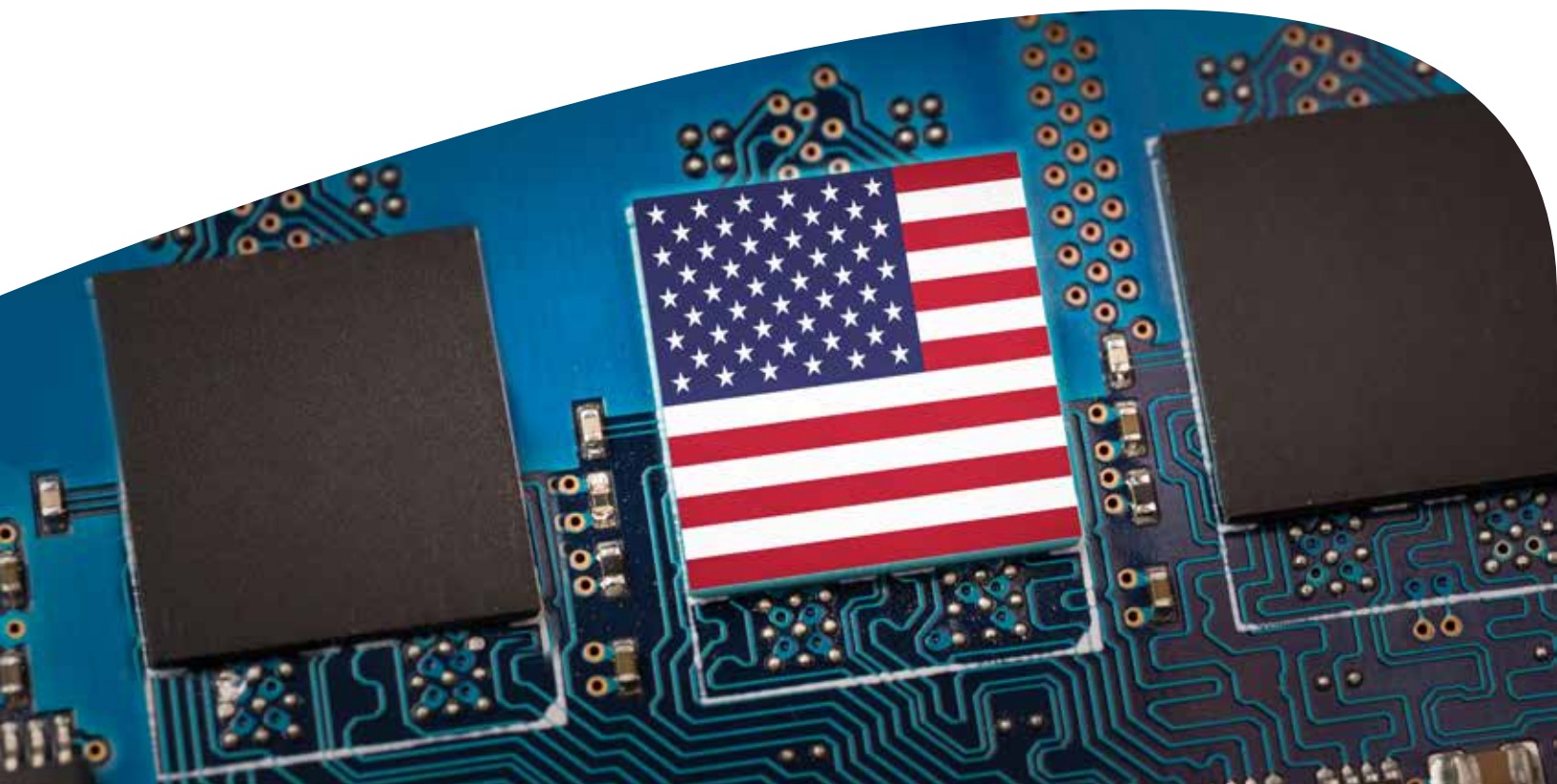


Promoting American Leadership in AI Innovation

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Overview

Business Roundtable companies are leading the way on artificial intelligence (AI) innovation, benefiting American workers, consumers, and small and medium-sized businesses with transformative potential. To ensure continued leadership and strengthen U.S. competitiveness, federal policymakers should work with industry, academia and other stakeholders to strengthen the infrastructure that supports AI innovation. A strong AI ecosystem contributes to economic growth by deepening supply chains, creating jobs, making operations more efficient and bringing beneficial AI innovations to market.

Despite the remarkable advances made in recent years, critical gaps in U.S. innovation infrastructure include:

- A lack of access to technical resources, such as computing power and data, that limits broader participation in AI research and implementation; and
- An absence of consensus standards and frameworks that makes evaluating and effectively managing risks in AI systems more difficult.

Ensuring technical and evaluation resources are available and accessible to a more diverse set of individuals and organizations — including small businesses, academia and other research institutions — will help to close these gaps and further strengthen the U.S. AI ecosystem.

To continue advancing AI innovation, policymakers should:

- **Support strategic public-private partnerships, such as the National AI Research Resource (NAIRR) and the U.S. AI Safety Institute (USAISI), that invest in the research and resources underpinning a strong AI ecosystem;**
- **Improve and expand access to critical technical resources — including government datasets and computing power — that accelerate AI research, development and implementation; and**
- **Collaborate with industry and other stakeholders to create harmonized, voluntary and flexible risk-based evaluation frameworks and technical standards to provide guidance and certainty to organizations for evaluating and implementing AI tools, systems and services.**

Policy Considerations and Recommendations

To promote innovation and continue American leadership in AI, policymakers should:

Promote public-private partnerships

Business Roundtable Recommendation:

Policymakers should support strategic public-private partnerships working to strengthen AI innovation infrastructure, including codifying and appropriately funding NAIRR and USAISI.

A robust AI innovation infrastructure requires strong public-private partnerships toward conducting research, developing and providing technical resources, and shaping standards, evaluation tools and methods. Government, businesses, civil society and academia each have a valuable and unique role to play across resources, expertise and research capabilities. Strategic public-private collaboration will enable broader, more diverse participation in AI innovation by 1) making technical resources more widely accessible and 2) producing well-calibrated and effective standards and guidelines for responsible and safe development and deployment. These outcomes will produce a stronger AI ecosystem and drive long-term U.S. economic growth and competitiveness.

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Two positive examples of public-private partnerships in AI are NAIRR and USAISI, both driven by executive action. NAIRR provides a forum for federal agencies and private sector companies to donate resources, such as computing power, for smaller entities to utilize while developing and deploying AI. USAISI has a consortium of private sector stakeholders working collaboratively to develop science-based and empirically backed guidelines and standards for AI measurement and policy. While these partnerships are important, the lack of codification means that the future of these programs is uncertain — which could lead to a lack of sustained investment in critical elements of the AI innovation infrastructure.

Federal agencies should partner with industry to make government datasets available and support under-explored areas of AI research. For example, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Department of Energy National Laboratories, Department of Defense Laboratories and similar federal entities should conduct joint research and development with private sector partners

to address major challenges and accelerate the development and implementation of AI solutions. Collaboration between government, academia and industry should focus on core priorities such as standards development, evaluation, bias mitigation, mitigating harms from bad actors and socio-technical research topics. Successful partnerships will provide technical resources, build capacity, develop voluntary standards and guidelines, and advance valuable AI research.

Expand access to technical resources

Business Roundtable Recommendation:

Policymakers should expand access to technical resources, including efforts to make high-impact government datasets more widely available.

Advanced AI research requires vast amounts of computing power and data, often putting resource-strapped organizations at a disadvantage. Expanding access to technical resources will lower barriers to entry and stimulate innovation across the U.S. economy. The U.S. government has historically partnered with industry to provide technical resources to help mitigate threats and spur innovation — for example, by providing free anti-malware and cybersecurity services. Applying this approach to AI will allow a variety of organizations to safely accelerate the development and implementation of AI.

An important technical resource for AI innovation is government datasets, which are typically much larger in size and scope and more representative of diverse populations than non-governmental datasets. This makes them uniquely valuable for conducting research, testing, reducing bias and producing better AI models. But while open data is encouraged and often required in government, federal agencies typically lack the resources to publish high-impact datasets.

Increasing access to advanced computing resources and tools empowers more organizations to engage in AI research and development. Expanding access to these technical resources will accelerate responsible AI adoption and implementation and allow researchers to further our understanding of AI's beneficial uses, risks and impacts on society. In addition, this expanded access also will enable increased diversity of AI innovators and researchers. Investing in access to these resources now will produce significant returns on investment as innovations compound within the ecosystem.

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Develop innovation-enabling standards

Business Roundtable Recommendation:

Voluntary, harmonized and flexible risk-based standards will ensure that organizations are equipped to evaluate and implement AI tools, systems and services. Standards should be developed through partnerships with industry, government and other relevant stakeholders.

Establishing voluntary guidance and standards is a crucial step for widespread AI development, deployment, adoption and innovation. It will help organizations of all sizes confidently develop and deploy AI systems and establish effective risk management processes. Guidance and standards should be risk-based, context-driven and flexible to encourage innovation.

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The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) AI Risk Management Framework (RMF) is an example of strong existing risk management guidance developed through robust public-private partnership. While the NIST AI RMF may need to be refined over time, including updates to account for different types and uses of AI, the framework provides a foundation for developing innovation-enabling standards.

To the extent that requirements are imposed (e.g., NIST requirements and guidance for red-teaming within certain critical infrastructure contexts), they should be narrowly scoped to address high-impact and harmful outcomes of AI systems and adopt a nuanced, real-world understanding of risk. Any required tools or processes should be narrowly scoped with well-defined objectives and build on partnership-led technical research.

Policymakers should support the USAISI as a forum to identify and develop proven, scalable and interoperable techniques, relying heavily on industry learnings and best practices from ongoing risk management efforts. This collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations will promote standards that help organizations use AI safely and securely.

USAISI will play a critical role in advancing U.S. guidance, standards and requirements through its work with other safety institutes around the world. A cohesive, harmonized approach with international guidelines helps to level the playing field for American businesses, allowing them to confidently innovate and compete in the increasingly global AI sphere.

Conclusion

Fully unlocking AI's transformative potential will require the government to strengthen the infrastructure underpinning AI innovation, including by partnering with industry and research institutions to share technical resources, drive research forward, and develop practical, effective standards and guidance within a cohesive regulatory framework.

By prioritizing access to resources such as data and computing power, we can ensure that all Americans — regardless of their background or organization size — can actively participate in and benefit from the AI ecosystem. An inclusive approach to building out the infrastructure to support AI innovation not only promotes diversity, transparency and ethical AI practices, but also accelerates the development and adoption of better, more robust AI systems — ultimately leading to a more equitable and prosperous future.