



Responsible AI in the Military domain **Summit**

The Hague
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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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1. General introduction and outline of the Call for Proposals

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a system technology that, due to its wide applicability, is influencing and changing our world fundamentally, particularly in the military domain. Military application of AI is essential for technologically advanced and operationally relevant armed forces. At the same time, military application of AI carries certain risks, for example related to predictability of systems, lack of human control, or lack of clarity with regard to liability.

The international community is faced with the central question of how military application of AI can – and should – be dealt with responsibly. How does the extensive application of AI affect decision-making on the use of force, distinction and proportionality, and accountability? How do we optimize human-machine interaction? These are a few of the dilemmas that require a balanced, international discussion.

Looking both at the opportunities as well as the risks of AI in the military domain, the Netherlands believes the responsible development, deployment and use of AI in the military domain must be put higher on the international agenda. That is why the Netherlands is hosting the international high-



level and multi-stakeholder RE AIM Summit on 15 and 16 February 2023 in the World Forum in The Hague.

The rapid technological sophistication of AI, together with the increasing implementation of AI in the military domain at tactical, operational and strategic levels requires us to look closely at existing and future challenges, objectives and policies as well as governance frameworks in this field. The Summit will focus on the application of AI in military operations; meaning the use of force and the related steps and decision-making leading to that. Considering for example the use of AI in weapon systems, but also the use of AI in ISR, data-analyses and command and control systems.

The title of the Summit, REAIM stands for the responsibility of the international community to reflect, reconsider, review and rethink the development, deployment and use of AI in the military domain through international dialogue on the responsible use of AI in the military domain. The Netherlands invites all those active in the field of AI in the military (and civil) domain, to actively contribute to the Summit, by taking part in this call for proposals.

Note: The Netherlands acknowledges the importance of addressing the concerns around LAWS in the appropriate fora. The REAIM Summit aims to take a next step in international discussions around the broader topic of the military applications of AI.

2. Who can apply?

The Summit aims to connect all relevant players in the AI domain, therefore this call is open for actors from industry, academia, knowledge institutions, civil society, government and intergovernmental organizations to submit their proposals. The Summit offers a platform to share knowledge, debunk myths, provoke discussions about dilemmas and solutions, demonstrate best practices and formulate concrete next steps on this agenda.

The Netherlands invites all who are active in the field of AI to submit proposals in order to contribute to the first global dialogue on responsible application of AI in the military domain. This includes actors that are active in the field of civil and military AI, actors that are active in the field of legal and ethical frameworks concerning AI, international governance, military strategy and new (military) technologies and other related fields.

Joint proposals are particularly encouraged to emphasize the multi-stakeholder character of this Summit.

3. What can you apply for?

Potential partner organizations are invited to submit proposals for specific (break-out) sessions such as (but not limited to) workshops, panel discussions, interviews, debates, demonstrations, talks, training sessions or other activities of the REAIM Summit.

The Summit expects to host a live audience of about 1000-1500 Summit participants in The Hague, including ministers, policy-makers, academics, businesses, civil society organizations, and journalists, from all over the world working in or with AI. Apart from the live audience, many more will join virtually.

4. Themes and topics of the Summit

Proposals are invited under the following topics (*note: questions are examples for inspiration, other ideas are welcomed*):



- a) **Myth busting AI – breaking down the characteristics of AI – *what do we need to know about the technical aspects of AI to understand how it can be applied responsibly in a military context?***

Suggestions for questions that could be addressed (not exhaustive):

- How might we characterise a ‘sufficient understanding’ to use a system responsibly?
- How are popular concepts like *Reliable AI, Robustness of AI systems, Explainable AI, Data Bias*, etc. important in relation to responsible application of AI in the military domain?
- What AI myths can we debunk?
- Do challenges of technical ‘explainability’ always produce challenges for understanding risks?
- What are dilemmas that developers face when designing responsible AI in practice?
- How do systems navigate uncertainty and how do users approach uncertainty?
- What characteristics do people attribute to responsible AI systems?

- b) ***Responsible deployment and use of AI – what do military applications of AI mean in practice? What are its main benefits and main vulnerabilities?***

Suggestions for questions that could be addressed (not exhaustive):

- What is the impact of AI on military strategy?
- To what extent can current military applications of AI challenge the conduct of war?
- What opportunities and dilemmas can we identify regarding military applications of AI, for example with regard to preventing unintended consequences and questions on accountability?
- How can AI influence the decision-making process and the line of command and control?
- How is AI being used to improve military actions? What potential gains can be achieved through the application of AI in military operations?
- What should ‘human-machine interaction’ look like in the context of military use of AI?

- c) ***Governance frameworks – which frameworks exist to make sure AI is applied responsibly in the military domain? What additional instruments and tools could strengthen governance frameworks, and how can stakeholders contribute?***

Suggestions for questions that could be addressed (not exhaustive):

- What are good practices when it comes to the responsible innovation and development of AI?
- How can we implement ethically aligned frameworks for AI?
- How do ethical or technical standards strengthen the legal frameworks?
- How can educational programmes and courses provide a governance tool that leads to the responsible use of AI in the chain of users?
- To what extent can due diligence and compliance structures from industry add to a responsible end-use of AI products?
- How can we create a practical understanding of the opportunities and challenges of AI amongst military decision makers, personnel and policymakers?

5. What kind of proposals are eligible?

In order to create a balanced Summit programme, the project team will be using the following general selection criteria to determine whether proposals are eligible for the REAIM summit 2023.



- **Overall relevance to the Summit theme and goals.** Proposals are considered for their relevance to the theme / subthemes, aims and general spirit of the Summit.
- **Concreteness.** Proposals need to be concrete in their aim, shape and form. They should bring new insights to the table, not repeat discussions that have already taken place.
- **Proposed speakers and moderators.** Applicants are encouraged to carefully select appealing speakers and moderators. Sessions that are both appealing to an audience with a more technical background as well as an audience with a policy background will have preference. Applicants should also pay attention to balance in [panel]discussions. Persons able to share their own [field] experience are welcomed.
- **Innovative format.** Out-of-the-box ideas and innovative formats are encouraged (storytelling, talkshows, team debates, scenario-building exercises etc.) to ensure interactive and engaging discussions with participation of the audience. Panels with only general introductions and presentations and/or no interaction with the audience will be less likely to be selected.
- **Diversity & inclusion.** The choice of panelists/ speakers *must* respect gender balance and diverse geographic representation in all multi-stakeholder sessions. Non-diverse or non-inclusive panels are less likely to be selected.

6. Process for this Call for Proposals

Please register your proposal here: <https://re-aim.conference-registration.nl/cfp>.

After registration of your proposal, the selection process is as follows:

- 21 September – 2 November: Call for Proposals is open for submissions.
- 2 November – 16 November: Selection Process based on the general selection criteria.
- 21 – 25 November or sooner if possible: you will be informed whether your proposal is selected or not.
- After being selected, the project team will be in touch about next steps to execute your proposal.

7. Logistics and possibilities at the venue

The World Forum in The Hague is a high quality conference facility that caters for interesting and innovative formats for your session and can host both smaller (40 up to 75) and larger audiences (150 up to 250). The Summit venue offers professional support for sound, presentations, video etcetera. Additional wishes of session organizers can be discussed on a case by case basis. Sessions are open for everybody, but access can be restricted if that serves the purpose of the session and when clearly motivated.

8. Benefits and responsibilities for session organizers

Benefits for session organizers

- Gaining access to a large network of prominent international specialists in the field of AI both in the civil and military domains.
- Impacting the first global discussion on responsible military AI by designing a session within this global event. RE AIM 2023 aims to include all countries that want to contribute to an open dialogue.
- Impacting the outcome and follow-up actions of the global Summit.



- Branding amongst the Summit supporters.
- Becoming a partner of the REAIM Summit 2023. Session organizers can expect their logo on the website and the Summit digital platform as well as visually displayed at the Summit venue.

Responsibilities of session organizers

- Covering costs of travel, accommodation and other travel related expenses of moderators, speakers and facilitators of your session.
- Making sure the proposed session is organized in time, by contacting and confirming the moderator and speakers.
- When deemed necessary, providing for a short summary of the session. Regularly liaising with the Summit organization in preparation of your session.
- Providing requested information about content, speakers and documents of your session to the Summit organization.
- Ensuring all contributors are properly registered and accredited for participation.
 - Please note that all persons who want to enter the venue need to go through the registration system.
 - Please note that the Summit organization has no ability to change visa requirements or procedures.