



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Appointment of Chair, Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA)

July 2021

Reference: QAPASA

Welcome Letter

The Advanced Research and Invention Agency is a critical part of the UK Government's science and research agenda and maintaining the UK's position on the international stage as a science superpower. Its role will be to find and fund research that will transform the way we live.

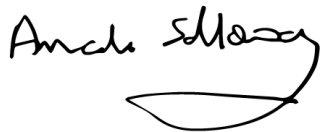
The UK Government want to hire a talented, experienced, and trust-worthy Chair to hold the executive to account on delivering ARIA's goals.

We are looking for someone who commands the confidence of academic, business, higher education, and policy communities, promote effective stakeholder engagement, guide, and challenge the development of ARIA's organisational approach.

We are designing ARIA from the ground up to be an organisation where researchers are free to imagine and create. This will be the environment where paradigm-shifting discoveries are made, you will have the opportunity to make history as the holder of one of ARIA's pivotal roles.

I wish you the best of luck in your application,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Solloway". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that loops back under the name.

Amanda Solloway MP,
Minister for Science, Research and Innovation,
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

ARIA will be optimised for
scientific and technological
breakthroughs.

ARIA Overview

We are looking for a visionary leader as the first Chair of ARIA, the Advanced Research and Invention Agency. Modelled after the ARPAs in the United States, ARIA's mission is to pursue high-risk, high-payoff research in breakthrough technologies that create a strategic advantage for the United Kingdom.

The agency will have a high degree of freedom and autonomy from central Government, minimal bureaucracy, and maximal financial flexibility. The Government is committed to providing at least £800m in funding for the agency over the course of this parliament, and we are currently legislating to gain explicit parliamentary consent for the body's unique characteristics to be protected for the long term.

For further information on the background of ARIA and its establishment please click [here](#).

The role

WHAT YOU WILL DO

The Chair is a key figurehead for ARIA and will be integral to shaping the new organisation and ensuring its success and the UK's continued leadership globally on research and innovation. You will work with the CEO and other Board members, leading ARIA in pursuit of its objectives. You will act as custodian for ARIA's mission and objectives and be responsible for supporting overall direction and management, ensuring that the Board takes an effective governance role.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

- Build vital relationships with various partners aimed at realising the potential of ARIA's research to drive economically beneficial outcomes. Engaging with the business and academic communities, Government departments, UKRI, Parliament and relevant all-party groups as well as other public, private and third sector partners including those outside of the UK to increase the relevance and economic impact of ARIA's research;
- Support and empower the CEO in progressing a coherent strategic approach across the organisation on cross-cutting research and innovation priorities.

Person specification

You are an experienced board member, with a good understanding of governance and other governing body management issues such as an understanding of compliance and probity as these relate to a publicly funded organisation. You are an inquisitive and intuitive thinker with the ability to remain objective in scrutinising ARIA's executive and holding it to account. You will be able to balance the competing and conflicting strategic pressures from central Government, inside ARIA, and from external stakeholders.

The successful candidate will be an empowering and inclusive leader, capable of build effective relationships, and will bring:

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- The ability to empower, unblock and support a leadership in their aims, providing challenge where necessary;
- Engage credibly with the breadth of stakeholders at senior level, including Ministers and senior officials within Government;
- Ability to Chair the Board of a substantial organisation and ability to develop and drive forward strategic direction;
- Exercise judgement across a broad spectrum of policy and high-level management issues and deal with complex and difficult discussions with diplomacy and resolve;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills coupled with a strong intellect and negotiation and influencing capability across a range of stakeholders;
- Promotes an inclusive and ambitious culture appropriate for a dynamic, flexible and innovative body;
- Ability to provide constructive challenge to the ARIA Executive and to drive forward change in behaviour and practice across the organisation, acting in line with the Principles of Public Life.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

- Experience in public or private sector R&D.

Terms of appointment

Term: 4 – 5 years (to be agreed with successful candidate).

Time commitment: approximately 2 days per week.

Location: ARIA's HQ location is yet to be announced. The leadership will be expected to be involved in determining ARIA's geographical footprint across the UK.

Remuneration: £148, 500 FTE. Remuneration will be pro-rated.

Equal Opportunities

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is committed to the principle of public appointments on merit with independent assessment, openness and fairness of process and to providing equal opportunities for all.

Applications are welcome from all, but we particularly encourage applications from women, people from an ethnic minority, people with disabilities and other underrepresented groups.

BEIS offers professional training courses on public sector finance and governance for those new to the public sector. BEIS works with Government Departments to ensure they have the capacity to attract the widest field of candidates and to make the best possible appointments.

All applicants are asked to complete an anonymised Diversity Monitoring Form used for data gathering information only in order to ensure Departments are recruiting from the widest possible pool.

Reasonable Adjustments

We are committed to making reasonable adjustments in order to support disabled job applicants and ensure that you are not disadvantaged in the recruitment and assessment process.

If you feel that you may need a reasonable adjustment to be made, or you would like to discuss your requirements in more detail, please contact: belinda.beck@saxbam.com in the first instance.

Disability Confident Scheme

The Civil Service embraces diversity and promotes equal opportunities. As such, we run a Disability Confident Scheme (DCS) for candidates with disabilities. For your application to be considered under the scheme, please complete the relevant section of the online application. It is not necessary to state the nature of your disability.

How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code **QAPASA**.

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the conflicts of interest form and online diversity monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Wednesday 8th September 2021**.

* The diversity monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

Saxton Bampfylde

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