

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

What is Artificial Intelligence?

The [Scottish AI Alliance](#) defines AI (Artificial Intelligence) as:

“a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions that can influence physical or virtual environments. Different AI systems vary in their levels of autonomy and adaptiveness after deployment.”

AI systems, tools and products are part of a rapidly growing and evolving market. As the availability and functionality of AI tools grows, bidders may consider, or may already be using, AI (including generative AI – please see more detail on this below) to produce their bids.

Scotland's [AI Strategy](#) sets out the vision for Scotland to become a leader in the development and use of trustworthy, ethical and inclusive AI.

The use of trustworthy, ethical and inclusive AI by bidders and buyers (in accordance with their public body's policies and guidance) **is not** prohibited during the procurement process. However, your organisation should undertake proportionate actions (in accordance with your policies and guidance) to mitigate any risks and maximise any benefits which AI may present.

Types of AI

There are several different types of AI systems that are increasingly used at present and offer a variety of applications and outputs. You can find out more about these below:

Generative AI	Generative AI is a subset of AI that focuses on creating new data. Unlike AI systems, Generative AI system models can generate new content, such as text, images, or audio, from the user at the outset. It will gather and use information and data from many sources. This can prove to be a useful tool for users but can also result in the information generated being inaccurate. As such, outputs must be carefully checked for reliability.
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Large Language Models	Large Language Models (LLMs) are a subset of Generative AI specifically focused on understanding and generate human-like text. An example is ChatGPT which demonstrates understanding and producing natural language responses.
Intelligent Automation	Intelligent automation (IA) refers to the use of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), robotic process automation (RPA), and data analytics to enhance and streamline business processes in the public sector. IA automates tasks, improves decision-making through data analysis, and increases efficiency, transparency, and compliance, helping to deliver better public services with fewer resources and improved operational outcomes.

You can find out more about AI by reading the next page [What Do Buyers Need to Know About AI?](#)