

Call for Proposals: Development of a Robotic System for Autistic Children

Organization Name: CHILD AUTISM

Proposal Deadlines:

- **Executive Summary:** One week from the call date.
 - **Peer Review:** Two weeks from the call date.
 - **Final Slideshow and Presentation:** Three weeks from the call date.
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Project Overview

CHILD AUTISM is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for autistic children and their families in the UK through innovative solutions. We are seeking proposals for the development of a robotic system that leverages human-machine interface principles to assist autistic children in interacting with their environment, while also helping them manage stressful situations.

The goal of the proposed robots is to:

- **Facilitate Interaction:** Assist autistic children in engaging with the robot and the world around them, improving communication and socialization skills.
- **Reduce Stress:** Alleviate the stress children experience in overwhelming situations at school, at home, or in public spaces, offering support during moments that are typically hard to navigate.
- **Increase Accessibility:** Provide a tool that can be easily integrated into the daily lives of children and caregivers.

Proposal Criteria

Proposals must meet the following criteria:

- **User-Friendly:** Robots should be easy to use, with children as young as 3 years old being able to quickly learn to interact with them.
- **Sturdy:** The design must be robust enough to withstand handling by small children, ensuring it is durable under frequent use.
- **Safe:** The robots should be safe for children to carry and interact with, with no risk of harm or injury. This includes safe materials, rounded edges, and appropriate weight.
- **Portable:** The system must be lightweight and portable, allowing children and their caregivers to easily transport it for use in different environments.
- **Adequate Battery Life:** The robot must be able to function effectively for at least 12 hours without needing a recharge.
- **Reasonable Pricing:** The robot should be affordable for institutions like hospitals, private practices, schools, and individual caregivers, ensuring wide access.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

To be considered for selection, candidates must submit the following documents:

1. Executive Summary (1 page max)

- **Content:** Present an overview of existing solutions, your proposed project, the project team (with roles), and the expected outcomes. This summary must demonstrate how the project aligns with the outlined criteria.
- **Deadline:** One week from the call for proposals.

2. Peer Review

- **Content:** Provide an independent peer review of your proposed project, ensuring that it meets the necessary scientific, practical, and ethical standards.
- **Deadline:** Two weeks from the call for proposals.

3. Final Slideshow and Presentation

- **Content:** A detailed presentation (at least 5 slides) covering the scientific merits, feasibility, innovation, relevance, and budget compliance of the project. This slideshow is supporting an oral presentation by the whole team.
- **Deadline:** Three weeks from the call for proposals.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- **Scientific Merit:** The project's basis in research and evidence, including its potential impact on the target population.
- **Feasibility:** The technical and practical viability of developing the robot, including the ability to meet the specified criteria.
- **Innovation:** The creativity and originality of the proposed solution, and how it advances current technology or approaches for autism support.
- **Relevance:** The alignment of the project with the needs of autistic children and caregivers.
- **Budget Compliance:** The financial feasibility of the proposed project, ensuring it aligns with the expected costs for production and accessibility.

Proposal Submission Process

Please submit your completed documents [on this platform](#), saved as PDFs. Only complete proposals submitted by the deadline will be considered.

For any inquiries or further information regarding the call for proposals, please contact marie.barthet@univ-tlse3.fr

We look forward to receiving your innovative proposals and working together to improve the lives of autistic children.