From: <[redacted]>
Date: Tue, 20 Jan 2026 at 14:27
Subject: Solar Radiation Management
To: <clarifications@aria.org.uk>

I am contacting you today to ask for information on your UK SRM.

I would like to have a list of the chemicals you are spraying in our skies and the adverse effects to humans.

[redacted]

13 February 2026

Dear [redacted],

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("EIR") Request

We are writing in response to your recent request for information to the Advanced Research + Invention Agency ("**ARIA**") dated 20 January 2026 in which you asked:

"I am contacting you today to ask for information on your UK SRM.

I would like to have a list of the chemicals you are spraying in our skies and the adverse effects to humans."

Response to EIR request

ARIA is funding five projects that will undertake carefully controlled outdoor experiments to responsibly gather crucial real-world data about the feasibility and risks of climate cooling approaches. Any outdoor experiment will only go ahead once an independent environmental impact assessment has been made, and if the results of this suggest that the experiments will be safe (the impact assessment will also be made publicly available before experiments start). These experiments will only go ahead after a period of meaningful public engagement with local communities, and will all be subject to oversight by the programme's independent Oversight Committee.

The outdoor experiments being funded by ARIA's Exploring Climate Cooling programme are as follows:

- One project will explore the efficacy of rethickening arctic sea ice using seawater.
- Two projects will explore the effects of seawater spray on cloud reflectivity.
- One project will explore the effects of electric charge on cloud reflectivity.

Advanced Research + Invention Agency ARIA

- One project studies how milligram quantities of mineral dusts age in the stratosphere. In this controlled experiment, none of these materials will be released; all are returned to the ground for analysis by scientists.

Whilst we do expect that several of these experiments may take place in the UK, no locations for these have yet been selected. When sites are provisionally selected, public engagement with the communities local to the experiment sites will be undertaken.

For more information about the Exploring Climate Cooling programme, including details of the funded projects, teams, amount of funding and locations, please see our website: Exploring Climate Cooling. For your convenience, we have enclosed a copy of this information at **Annex 1**.

Yours sincerely,

ARIA

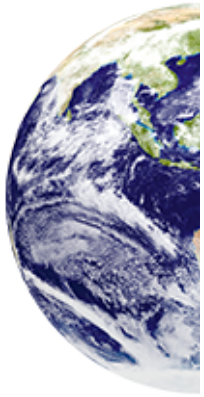
Advanced Research + Invention Agency

ARIA

Annex 1: Exploring Climate Cooling

Opportunity space: Future Proofing Our Climate and Weather

Programme: Exploring Climate Cooling



Exploring Climate Cooling

This £56.8m programme aims to build a robust evidence base to explore – with independent oversight – if climate cooling approaches could ever be feasible, scalable, safe, and governable.

Overview | Oversight + Governance | Funded projects | FAQs

Our goal

To build an evidence base to support the effective governance of emerging climate cooling approaches. We are funding transparent, public-good research — from ethics to real-world experiments — so the world can make better-informed decisions about this field.

Why this programme

Cutting emissions is the only sustainable solution to the climate crisis. However, ever-rising global temperatures are driving a surge of interest in approaches designed to cool the climate on timescales faster than decarbonisation.

This new field is evolving fast, attracting venture capital and giving rise to new private companies. Yet our understanding of the impacts, risks, governability, and even the basic feasibility of these approaches is poor.

We lack the deep technical and societal understanding required to govern this field responsibly: to reduce risk in a way that is ethical, legitimate, and inclusive.

This programme exists to fill that evidence gap. We are funding fundamental research — transparently, and free from any profit motive. We are focused on building the open knowledge base the world needs to make better-informed decisions, which could include deciding not to use these approaches.

Our international research portfolio is comprehensive, funding everything from computer modelling, to ethical frameworks, and observations of natural analogues of climate cooling approaches (like volcanoes). Where essential questions cannot be answered by models, we also fund a limited number of small-scale, carefully controlled outdoor experiments, with stringent requirements for safety, respectful engagement, and transparency.

The world has a critical window of opportunity to build this evidence base, ensuring that robust safeguards can be developed while this field is still at a nascent stage. We are committed to sharing our results openly for the common good, and to working in partnership with others with the same goals.

Read the programme thesis

Read the accessible version of the programme thesis

Explore the funded projects

We're funding 22 research teams uniting specialists across diverse disciplines – from atmospheric physics, chemistry, and climate modelling to chemical engineering, systems analysis, and oceanography, alongside crucial expertise in governance and ethics – reflecting the programme's holistic approach.

Discover more

Meet the programme team

ır Programme Directors are supported by a core team that provides a blend of operational coordination and highly specialised technical expertise.

Mark Symes

Programme Director

Mark is an electrochemist with a 15-year career developing sustainable fuels in the drive towards net zero. He joined ARIA from the University of Glasgow, where he is Professor of Electrochemistry and Electrochemical Technology.

George Horner

Technical Specialist

George has a background in atmospheric physics, holding a PhD from Imperial College London, where he was researching how clouds evolve over time and how they may be impacted by aerosol particles.

Mike Farrar

Programme Specialist

Mike is a condensed matter physicist by training and joined ARIA from his postdoc in Oxford, where he conducted research on novel photovoltaics. Prior to this, he was responsible for the set-up of several high volume, thin-film deposition operations across the globe for the world's largest electronics original equipment manufacturers. Mike supports ARIA as an operating partner from Pace.

trajectory puts us at risk of triggering temperature-driven tipping points in the coming decades. This has sparked growing interest in approaches that could cool the Earth on short timescales, potentially delaying or avoiding such thresholds. However, we currently have very little understanding of whether these approaches would even work, or what their risks and impacts might be. This programme will explore critical unanswered questions as to the feasibility, scalability and safety of some of these proposed approaches. By investing in careful research today, we can build the evidence base needed to make wiser, better-informed decisions about the future."

Programme Director

Oversight + Governance

Meet the Oversight Committee and understand how we ensure rigorous governance across the programme

Learn more

FAQs

Check out the most frequently asked questions around this programme

Find out more

Sign up for updates