ESA AI Readiness Council (ARC) – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the AI Readiness Council (ARC)?
The AI Readiness Council (ARC) is an initiative of the Electronic Security Association (ESA) designed to help the electronic security and life safety industry adopt artificial intelligence responsibly, effectively, and profitably.

This member-led group unites integrators, manufacturers, legal professionals, researchers, and technology experts who understand both the potential and the challenges of AI. What sets ARC apart is its focus on real-world impact—not only guiding the safe and ethical deployment of AI in security technologies but also empowering companies to leverage AI to optimize core business functions like marketing, sales, operations, installations, and billing.

Who can apply to join the Council?
ARC is open to ESA members who bring subject matter expertise or strong interest in AI's role in the security industry. This includes integrators, manufacturers, AI solution providers, legal and compliance professionals, researchers, and other stakeholders committed to advancing responsible AI use.

How are members selected?
Applicants are reviewed by ESA and ARC leadership. Selection is based on a member's experience, demonstrated interest in AI, and alignment with the Council's mission. The goal is to maintain a diverse and balanced group of professionals representing various parts of the industry.

What is the time commitment?
ARC is structured to be collaborative but manageable. Members will participate in the following ways:

- Council Meetings: The full ARC Council meets virtually at the beginning of each quarter: March, June, September, and December, to review progress, align goals, and advance recommendations to the ESA Board.

- Working Group Meetings: Members join one of four working groups that meet virtually during the non-council months: January, February, April, May, July, August, October, and November, for focused discussions and content development.

- Annual In-Person Meeting at ESX: ARC members are encouraged to attend an in-person gathering during ESX in June, the industry's premier tradeshow.

- Resource Review and Industry Engagement: Members may be asked to review ARC resources and support council initiatives within their companies and the broader security and life safety industry.

What are the working groups?
ARC's four working groups focus on key areas where AI intersects with security:
- **AI in Action**: Highlighting real-world use cases in video surveillance, fire detection, intrusion systems, and central station monitoring.

- **Ethics and Governance**: Building frameworks to address bias, manage risk, and meet compliance standards.

- **Standards and Best Practices**: Developing operational and technical guidance for safe, scalable AI integration.

- **Education, Workforce Readiness, and Business Optimization:** Delivering training content and pathways that build AI literacy, with a special emphasis on how AI can streamline marketing, sales, operations, installation, and billing for security companies.

What is expected of Council members?
Members are expected to:

- Participate in scheduled meetings and working group sessions

- Share their expertise, insights, and feedback

- Help shape ARC resources such as white papers, toolkits, and guidance materials

- Serve as advocates for responsible AI within the industry

What are the benefits of joining?
ARC members will help lead the conversation on AI in security. You'll gain early insight into trends, participate in shaping industry resources, and collaborate with peers on the forefront of innovation. It's a chance to contribute meaningfully to the future of electronic security.

How do I apply?
Applying to join the AI Readiness Council is simple. Here's how to get started:

1. Visit ESAWEB.ORG/ARC to access the ARC application form.

2. Complete the application, providing your relevant experience, interests, and area of focus.

3. Submit a brief bio, your professional resume, and a headshot to support your application.

The application form and additional details are available through ESA's website and official announcements. If you have questions or would like to express an interest, contact ESA staff liaison Taylor Criddle at Taylor.Criddle@ESAweb.org.