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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

If you don't find the answer to your question here, please **send a note** to our team.

FAQ SECTIONS

- .01 ABOUT THE EVENT
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ABOUT THE EVENT

What is VERTEX | Contested Logistics?

VERTEX | Contested Logistics will explore the Army's logistical challenges when operating in areas of conflict. This two-day market intelligence event creates a public-private exchange on new or novel logistics solutions to improve the Army's efforts in the Indo-Pacific. Together, commercial innovators and government experts will examine promising concepts, tackle real-world use cases, and uncover current opportunities and trends.

Why was the Army VERTEX series created?

The intent of VERTEX is to capture market intelligence that can be used to inform everything from future warfighting concepts to requirements (that determine what the Army will buy) for some of the Army's most technical challenges.

What are the dates for VERTEX | Contested Logistics? Where will the event be held?

VERTEX | Contested Logistics is February 13-14, 2024, at **Capital Factory** in downtown Austin, TX.

Who hosts VERTEX | Contested Logistics?

VERTEX is hosted by Army Futures Command (AFC) and is led by its innovation unit, Army Applications Laboratory (AAL).

Are there other Army VERTEX events?

VERTEX | Contested Logistics is our fifth VERTEX. Each VERTEX focuses on a priority area for the Army identified by AFC leadership. This upcoming VERTEX focuses on contested logistics in the Indo-Pacific. The frequency and topics for future events are determined by evolving Army needs.

What is on the agenda for VERTEX | Contested Logistics?

The **morning agenda** includes keynotes and panel discussions from leading private-sector innovators and Army/joint experts. In the afternoons, participants will break into small groups to talk about how their technologies address critical Army logistics use cases.

Will contracts be awarded at this event?

No. VERTEX | Contested Logistics is not a pitch competition, and no contracts or funding will be awarded at the event. Previous events have resulted in solicitations, and the information gained from VERTEX | Contested Logistics may inform future Army priorities and solicitations. If you are interested in government contract opportunities, visit sam.gov. If you would like to work with Army Applications Laboratory, **join our network**.

Are invitations transferable to a coworker?

No. All individuals must request their own invitation to be evaluated and verified to attend VERTEX. If a colleague has been approved to attend in-person and is no longer able to attend, please **contact us** to request an invitation transfer. Transfer requests will be considered for colleagues with similar experience and technical background. We will evaluate transfer requests on a case-by-case basis, and acceptance is not guaranteed.

What happens after VERTEX | Contested Logistics?

Army subject matter experts (SMEs) will report recommendations to key stakeholders and leadership across the enterprise. New opportunities could be informed by this event, and we will contact you if your technical focus aligns with those opportunities.

Will the event be live streamed or recorded?

Only the morning sessions will be live streamed. They will be available on **AFC's YouTube** channel.

Why is the Army looking for nontraditional and other commercial entities for logistics solutions?

The Army wants to foster a community where private-sector innovators can partner with military experts to solve some of its most critical problems. By working with nontraditional innovators, the Army gains valuable insight into the commercial viability of technologies, technical limitations, and real-time information that can be used to inform requirements writers, and military acquisition experts.

ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Why should I consider participating in VERTEX | Contested Logistics?

Attendees will meet US Army leaders and government subject matter experts who have non-dilutive funding for new logistics solutions. You'll learn about the hardest problems that we are trying to solve and where the Army needs to evolve.

With this information, you can inform what the Army develops and highlight areas for refinement by aligning your R&D or investments to the market trajectory. In addition, startups and small businesses will have a chance to see how their technology stacks up. You may uncover new applications for your technology or get mainstream validation of innovative concepts. And you can identify partnership opportunities with other technologists, founders, and market experts who are working on the leading edge of technology.

Who attends VERTEX | Contested Logistics?

VERTEX attendees will include personnel (leaders, SMEs, etc.) from across Army Futures Command as well as Army Program Executive Offices (PEOs) with a vested interest in logistics solutions. It will also include commercial technologists, founders, and market experts who can contribute to a meaningful dialogue on logistics solutions. While there will be opportunities to build relationships during VERTEX | Contested Logistics, the goal is to keep the focus on the technology, not on contracts or business development.

Can I attend VERTEX even if I don't work with the DoD?

Absolutely! VERTEX | Contested Logistics includes companies at all stages of involvement with the DoD, from startups with dual use technology potential to established government partners.

What defines a "nontraditional" company, and does my company need to be one to attend?

AFC considers a nontraditional company to be one that generates revenue primarily from non-DoD activities. We want to work with companies best able to solve Army problems, not just the ones best able to navigate the process.

You do not need to be a nontraditional company to attend VERTEX | Contested Logistics. All companies are welcome to request an invitation and will be selected to participate based on their alignment with the use cases.

How many people attend VERTEX | Contested Logistics?

This market intelligence event will bring together 150 commercial innovators with US Army experts for a technical exchange on new and novel solutions related to logistics.

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How do I request to participate in VERTEX? How is attendance determined?

Register for VERTEX | Contested Logistics at vertex.aal.army.

While anyone can request an invitation, attendance at VERTEX | Contested Logistics is limited to 150 people. Applicants will be vetted to ensure alignment with AFC's use cases before we extend a formal invitation. We will let you know if you are selected to participate approximately three weeks prior to the event. Please do not book your travel arrangements until you have received an invitation to attend.

What is the deadline to request an invitation?

The deadline to request an invitation is January 23, 2024.

Is there a limit to the number of people who can attend the event from my company?

All interested employees of a company are welcome to apply, but the number of employees accepted from each company will be determined by individual applicant fit and overall attendance demand.

I received information about a government-only SME Workshop February 12-15. What's that about?

A group of stakeholders from across the Army will gather to discuss shared goals and objectives for VERTEX | Contested Logistics. If you received information about this event but have questions, please refer to the email you received or contact us at tom@aal.army.

Do I need to be vaccinated for COVID-19 to participate?

We no longer require vaccinations. Please consider the health of others if you are feeling sick. Here is a link for more information on **COVID-19**.

Can I post about what I learn during VERTEX on my social media channels?

You can post publicly about anything you learn in the panel sessions each morning, as these sessions will also be live streamed via AFC's YouTube Channel. But we ask that you not post any information from the use case breakout sessions, which will be closed-door sessions exclusively for individuals who are invited to attend in person.

Feel free to tag our social channels in your posts:

- **Army Futures Command** (LinkedIn) & [@armyfuture](https://twitter.com/armyfuture) (X)
- **Army Applications Laboratory** (LinkedIn) & [@aal_innovation](https://twitter.com/aal_innovation) (X)

ABOUT AFC & AAL

What is Army Futures Command?

Army Futures Command (AFC) transforms the Army to ensure war-winning future readiness. Headquartered in Austin, Texas, AFC has more than 26,000 people worldwide. The Army's six modernization priorities are the focus of AFC's Cross-Functional Teams: Long Range Precision Fires; Next Generation Combat Vehicles; Future Vertical Lift; Network; Air and Missile Defense; Soldier Lethality; Assured Positioning, Navigation and Timing/Space; Synthetic Training Environment; and Contested Logistics. The Army Artificial Intelligence Integration Center, Army Software Factory and Army Applications Laboratory also support AFC efforts. Collaborating with entrepreneurs, scientists, industry and academia, AFC strives to create the best solutions to keep Soldiers safe and America strong. For more information, visit army.mil/futures.

What is Army Application Laboratory (AAL)?

Army Applications Laboratory (AAL), based in Austin, Texas, finds the best companies with cutting-edge technologies and ideas that can be turned into real, relevant solutions for Soldiers – experimenting directly with Army units to speed technology development, test, and refine improved capability development models that can be used widely across the Army. Learn how we do it at aal.army.

Is VERTEX | Contested Logistics the main focus of AAL?

No. AAL works on a variety of Army tech problems, of which contested logistics is just one. You can discover more open opportunities to work with AAL at aal.army/industry.