VERTEX

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

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

FAQ SECTIONS

ABOUT THE EVENT

What is VERTEX | Tactical Information and Network?
VERTEX | Tactical Information and Network is an exclusive two-day symposium in partnership with Next Generation Command and Control on the data and networks commanders use to understand the environment and to lead and assess operations. Next generation tactical networks will be open and modular, and will have to manage unprecedented amounts of data coming from sensors, uncrewed systems, and Soldiers. How quickly and accurately this information transforms into common understanding across a formation and how easily Soldiers can access, manipulate, and share information translates directly into rapid, accurate decision making and effective operations.

Why was the VERTEX series created?
VERTEX captures 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 technical challenges that are best suited for commercial solutions.

What are the dates for VERTEX | Tactical Information and Network? Where will the event be held?
November 19-20, 2024, at **Capital Factory** in downtown Austin, TX.

Who hosts VERTEX | Tactical Information and Network?

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

Are there other VERTEX events?

VERTEX | Tactical Information and Network is our seventh VERTEX. Each VERTEX focuses on a priority area for the Army, identified by AFC leadership. This upcoming VERTEX will be held in partnership with Next Generation Command and Control (NGC2). The frequency and topics for future events are determined by evolving Army needs.

What is on the agenda for VERTEX | Tactical Information and Network?

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 use cases.

Will any contracts be awarded at this VERTEX?

No. VERTEX | Tactical Information and Network 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 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, check out our **open opportunities** and **join our solver 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?

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

Why is the Army looking for nontraditional and other commercial entities for tech 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 | Tactical Information and Network?
Attendees will meet US Army leaders and government subject matter experts who have non-dilutive funding for new tech 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 identify opportunities with other technologists, founders, and market experts who are working on the leading edge of technology.

Who attends VERTEX?
VERTEX government attendees extend across the Army's solution development enterprise including Army Futures Command, program executive offices, cross functional teams, requirements writers, concept developers, and more. Industry attendees include commercial technologists, founders, and market experts who can contribute to a meaningful dialogue. While there will be opportunities to build relationships during VERTEX, 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 is open to 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, 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 typically attend VERTEX?
This market intelligence event will bring together roughly 150 commercial innovators with US Army experts.

How do I request to participate in VERTEX? How is attendance determined?
Register for VERTEX | Tactical Information and Network at **vertex.aal.army**.

While anyone can request an invitation, attendance at VERTEX | Tactical Information and Network is limited to 150 people. Applicants will be vetted for both security and 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 October 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. What's that about?
A group of stakeholders from across the Army will gather to discuss shared goals and objectives for VERTEX | Tactical Information and Network. If you received information about this event but have questions, please refer to the email you received or contact us at **colby@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. Please do 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) & **@armyfutures** (X)
- **Army Applications Laboratory** (LinkedIn) & **@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; All Domain Sensing; Air and Missile Defense; Soldier Lethality; 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)?
We solve Army problems. Army Applications Laboratory (AAL) is Army Futures Command's innovation unit and a partner for industry, the Army, and government organizations. We discover practices and processes to speed capability development and turn cutting-edge ideas into real, relevant solutions for Soldiers. Learn how we do it at **aal.army**.

Is VERTEX | Tactical Information and Network the main focus of AAL?
No. AAL works on a variety of Army tech problems, of which Tactical Information and Network is just one. You can discover more open opportunities to work with AAL at **aal.army/industry**.