

Unclassified



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

If you don't find the answer to your question here, please [send a note](#) to our team.

FAQ SECTIONS

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ABOUT THE EVENT

What is VERTEX | Armored Formations?

VERTEX | Armored Formations is an exclusive workshop to explore the challenges and opportunities facing our armored formations. This two-day market intelligence event creates a public-private exchange on new or novel human-machine integration solutions to make armored formations more globally mobile and sustainable, while maintaining lethality. Together, commercial innovators and government experts will examine promising concepts, tackle real-world use cases, and uncover current opportunities and trends – all in one place.

Why was the Army VERTEX event series created?

The intent of VERTEX is to capture market intelligence that can be used to inform everything from concepts to requirements for the Army's technical problems.

What are the dates for VERTEX | Armored Formations? Where will the event be held?

VERTEX | Armored Formations is December 12-13, 2023, at [Capital Factory](#) in downtown Austin, TX.

Who hosts VERTEX | Armored Formations?

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

Is this the first Army VERTEX event? Is this an annual event?

VERTEX | Armored Formations is the fourth VERTEX event. Each VERTEX focuses on a priority technology area for the Army, as envisioned by AFC leadership. This upcoming VERTEX focuses on human-machine integration for armored formations. The frequency and the topics for future events are determined by evolving Army needs.

What is on the agenda for VERTEX | Armored Formations?

Packed with plenty of time for Army and commercial technologists to collaborate, the **morning agenda** includes keynotes and panel discussions on human-machine integration from leading private-sector innovators and Army/joint experts. In the afternoons, participants will break into small groups to talk about how these technologies can help the Army address its most critical human-machine integration **use cases** for armored formations.

VERTEX | Armored Formations will answer questions in three core areas:

- **Protection:** How do we increase the survivability of personnel while maintaining operational capability?
- **Lethality:** How do we increase the lethality of armored formations using human-machine integration?
- **Reconnaissance:** How do we use robots in reconnaissance and security operations to make armored brigades and divisions more globally mobile?

Will contracts be awarded at this event?

No. VERTEX | Armored Formations is not a pitch competition, and no contracts or funding will be awarded directly from this event. The information gained from VERTEX | Armored Formations will be used to help inform future Army priorities and solicitations. If you are interested in working with the US Army, visit sam.gov to find open contract opportunities or check out the **open opportunities with AAL**.

What happens after VERTEX | Armored Formations?

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

Will the event be live streamed or recorded?

The morning sessions (only) will be live streamed during the event and available on AFC's YouTube channel.

Why is the Army looking for nontraditional and other commercial entities for human-machine integration solutions?

Winning large-scale ground combat as part of joint, multi-domain operations requires the US Army to be on the forward edge of technology so our Soldiers can gain moments of advantage. To enable that, the Army wants to foster a community where new and different private-sector innovators can partner with military innovators to solve critical problems together.

One of the ways we do this is by streamlining acquisition processes and bringing new ideas to our teams who develop requirements, concepts, and technology. Developing more intentional interaction with all the SMEs in the room can speed the pace of innovation. The Army has a role in changing ideas about where technologists go to innovate and work on the cutting edge – across the Army, our sister services, and the entire DoD.

ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Why should I consider participating in VERTEX | Armored Formations?

The market intelligence available at VERTEX | Armored Formations is valuable for the entire ecosystem, not just for the Army. VERTEX | Armored Formations participants will get a firsthand look at novel human-machine integration solutions and products applied to armored formations that haven't hit the broader market but are on the path to commercialization.

As part of the event, attendees will also be able to meet US Army leaders and government subject matter experts who have non-dilutive funding for new human-machine integration technologies. 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 bleeding edge of technology.

Who attends VERTEX | Armored Formations?

Army 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 human-machine integration technologies for armored formations. It will also include commercial technologists, founders, and market experts who can contribute to a meaningful dialogue on next-generation HMI technologies. While there will be opportunities to build relationships during VERTEX | Armored Formations, 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 | Armored Formations is designed for companies that don't typically work with the US government but may have a capability useful to the DoD, or that have done some work for the US government but have not yet reached a critical mass of sales for sustained engagement. Frequently, these companies might be considered "nontraditional" defense vendors, and we would love to see you there.

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

While there is not a fixed definition of "nontraditional" companies for this event, AFC considers a nontraditional company to be one that generates revenue primarily from non-DoD activities. When speaking of nontraditional companies, it means that we want to include technologies from throughout the commercial industry that can be applied and converted to solve Army problems.

That said, you do not need to be a nontraditional company to attend VERTEX | Armored Formations. All companies are welcome to request an invite and will be selected to participate based on who would contribute to, or learn from, discussions on Armored Formations the most.

How many people attend VERTEX | Armored Formations?

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

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

To be considered for attendance, register for VERTEX | Armored Formations at vertex.aal.army.

While anyone can request an invitation, attendance at VERTEX | Armored Formations is limited to 150 people. Prior to receiving a formal invitation, individuals will be vetted to ensure alignment with AFC's use cases for this event. If your area of expertise is a good fit, we'll let you know if you are selected to participate within about three weeks. Please do not book your travel arrangements until you have received an invitation to attend.

What is the deadline to register?

The deadline to register is November 17, 2023 to allow ample time for in-person selection and travel planning.

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

Attendance from any one company is limited to three people.

I received information about a government-only activity December 11-14. What's that about?

A group of HMI stakeholders from across the Army will gather to discuss shared goals and objectives for VERTEX | Armored Formations as well as for the Army's human-machine integration capabilities overall. If you received information on this activity but have questions, please refer to the email you received or contact Michael Froebel directly.

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 plenary 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 each afternoon, 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](#) (Twitter)
- [Army Applications Laboratory](#) (LinkedIn) & [@aal_innovation](#) (Twitter)

ABOUT AFC & AAL

What is Army Futures Command?

Army Futures Command is a United States Army command responsible for Army transformation. AFC has three priorities to support our purpose – prioritize people, design Army 2040 and deliver Army 2030. Headquartered in Austin, Texas, AFC has more than 26,000 people worldwide.

The Army's six modernization priorities are the focus of our eight Cross Functional Teams: Long Range Precision Fires; Next Generation Combat Vehicle; Future Vertical Lift; Army Network; Air and Missile Defense; Soldier Lethality; Contested Logistics; Assured Positioning Navigation Timing; and, Synthetic Training Environment. The Artificial Intelligence Task Force and the Army Applications Laboratory also support our efforts.

For more information, visit [armyfuturecommand.com](#).

What is Army Application Laboratory (AAL)?

Army Applications Laboratory (AAL), based in Austin, Texas, finds the best tech companies with technologies and cutting-edge ideas that can be turned into real, relevant solutions for Soldiers – experimenting directly with Army units to speed technology development and 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 | Armored Formations the main focus of AAL?

No. AAL is working on a variety of problem sets in addition to this one. You can discover more open opportunities to work with AAL at [aal.army/get-involved](#).