



# VERTEX

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

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

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### FAQ Sections

[.01 ABOUT THE EVENT](#)

[.02 ABOUT PARTICIPATION](#)

[.03 ABOUT AFC AND AAL](#)

### ABOUT THE EVENT

#### **What is VERTEX | Human Performance?**

Hosted by Army Futures Command (AFC), VERTEX | Human Performance is an exclusive 2-day workshop to explore next-generation human performance technologies. This market intelligence event brings together commercial innovators and US Army experts for a technical exchange on new and novel private sector solutions. Attendees get to explore 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?**

Ultimately, the intent of this event series is to capture market intelligence for the Army that can be used to inform everything from concepts to requirements. That said, we thought it was possible to add value back into the ecosystem by allowing others to benefit from that market intelligence as well. The idea is to facilitate a meaningful exchange of technical information among peers across the public and private sectors.

#### **What are the dates for VERTEX | Human Performance? Where will the event be held?**

VERTEX | Human Performance will take place December 7-8, 2022, at [The Capital Factory](#) in downtown Austin, TX.



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### **Who hosts VERTEX | Human Performance?**

VERTEX | Human Performance is an AFC-hosted event. The Acquisitions and Systems (A&S) branch of Army Futures Command is bringing together all of the entities in the Army acquisition ecosystem to learn together from industry. The Army Applications Laboratory (AAL) is leading the effort within A&S to bring key teams together from across the military and commercial worlds.

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

VERTEX | Energy, held in early 2022, was the first Army VERTEX event. AFC leaders envision VERTEX as an event series, with each event focused on a priority technology area for the Army. The upcoming VERTEX event focuses on Human Performance. Both the frequency and the topics for future events are TBD.

### **What is on the agenda for VERTEX | Human Performance?**

Packed with plenty of time for Army and commercial technologists to collaborate, the [morning agenda](#) includes keynotes and panel discussions on human performance topics from leading private-sector innovators. In the afternoons, participants will break into small groups to talk about how these technologies can help the Army address its most critical human performance [use cases](#).

All VERTEX | Human Performance content will focus on two core areas that are important to both the public and private sectors:

- **Performance Optimization:** Explore how new technologies enable peak physical and cognitive performance for people working in physically-demanding roles.
- **Wearables, Tech, and Data:** Discuss the systems, processes, and technologies necessary to enable better health, precision, and resilience

We want to close the gap in human performance with an emphasis on solutions that support whole health – not just physical fitness.

### **Will contracts be awarded at this event?**

No. VERTEX | Human Performance is not a pitch competition, and no contracts or funding will be awarded directly from this event. 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](#).

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### **What happens after VERTEX | Human Performance?**

Following the event, Army subject matter experts (SMEs) will consolidate and report recommendations to key stakeholders and leadership across the enterprise. New opportunities will be informed by this event, and the acquisition community will have your contact information when beginning a solicitation for a new project.

In addition, the [Project Convergence portal](#) will accept submissions from commercial entities who are interested in working with the US Army. Organizers will review those submissions and route your technology appropriately to the most interested Science and Technology or Research and Development division.

### **Will the event be livestreamed or recorded?**

The morning sessions (only) will be livestreamed during the event and available via AFC's YouTube channel.

### **Why is the Army looking for nontraditional and other commercial entities for human performance solutions?**

Winning large-scale ground combat as part of joint, multi-domain operations requires the US military to be on the edge of technology, so our warfighters 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 the narrative about where people go to innovate and work on the cutting edge of technology — across the Army, our sister services, and the entire DoD.

## **ABOUT PARTICIPATION**

### **Why should I consider participating in VERTEX | Human Performance?**

The market intelligence available at VERTEX | Human Performance is valuable for the entire ecosystem, not just for the US Army. VERTEX | Human Performance participants will get a firsthand look at novel human performance solutions and products that haven't hit the broader market but are on the path to commercialization.



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The event will also provide attendees with insight into the US Army's funding roadmap directly from the 4-Star Command that informs how and where the Army invests. You'll learn about the hardest problems that we're trying to solve and where the Army needs to evolve. With this information, you can inform product development 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 – including the US Army.

### **Who attends VERTEX | Human Performance?**

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 Performance technologies. It will also include commercial technologists, founders, and market experts who can contribute to a meaningful dialogue on next-generation human performance technologies. While there will be opportunities to build relationships during VERTEX | Human Performance, the goal is to keep the focus on the technology, not on contracts or business development.

### **Can I join the event even if I don't already work with the DoD?**

Absolutely! VERTEX | Human Performance is designed for companies (i) that don't typically work with the US federal government but may have a capability useful to the DoD or (ii) that have done some work for the US federal 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 has a business model which 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.



# VERTEX

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That said, you do not need to be a nontraditional company to attend VERTEX | Human Performance. 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 Human Performance the most.

### **How many people attend VERTEX | Human Performance?**

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 human performance.

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

To be considered for attendance, register for VERTEX | Human Performance at [armyvertex.com](https://armyvertex.com).

While anyone can request an invitation, attendance is limited to 150 people, so individuals will be reviewed and vetted to ensure alignment with the use cases AFC seeks to address at this event before they are formally invited to attend. If your area of expertise is a good fit, we'll let you know within approximately three (3) weeks whether you are selected to participate. Please do not book your travel arrangements until you have received an invitation to attend.

### **What is the deadline to register?**

To allow ample time for in-person selection and travel planning, the deadline to register is November 10, 2022.

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

Given the limitations on attendees, attendance from any one company is limited to no more than three people.

### **I received information about a government-only activity on December 6. What's that about?**

A group of human performance stakeholders from across the Army will gather on Dec. 6 to discuss shared goals and objectives for VERTEX | Human Performance as well as for the Army's human performance capabilities overall. If you received information on this activity but have questions, please refer to the email you received or contact Nick Rinaldi directly.



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### **Do I need to be vaccinated to participate?**

Yes. In line with Army Public Health (APH) guidance, all attendees must provide proof of vaccination when checking in to help maintain a safe, COVID-cautious environment. You can find additional information and guidance related to COVID-19 on the [APH website](#).

### **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 kindly ask that you not post any information you learn in the Use Case Breakout sessions each afternoon, which will be a closed-door forum 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 aimed at modernizing the Army. AFC leads the persistent modernization of the Army in order to provide future warfighters with the concepts, capabilities, and organizational designs needed to dominate a future battlefield. 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; Assured Positioning Navigation Timing; and, Synthetic Training Environment. The Artificial Intelligence Task Force and the Army Applications Laboratory also support our 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 [armyfuturescommand.com](#).



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### **What is the Army Application Laboratory (AAL)?**

AAL is not a laboratory in the traditional sense of the word. We don't make things — we make things possible. AAL is the Army's innovation unit and a partner for both industry and government organizations. We create 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](https://aal.army).

### **Is VERTEX | Human Performance 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](https://aal.army/get-involved).

### **Is AAL affiliated with DIU?**

No. AAL is a part of the Army Futures Command (AFC), and both are headquartered in Austin, Texas. They are separate and distinct from the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU). AAL and AFC exist to modernize the Army, while DIU works on Secretary of Defense problems applicable to the entire DoD.