



Vulcan Ecosystem: Quick User Guide

27 August 2025

DoN SBIR Experimentation Cell



Vulcan Ecosystem: Quick User Guide

Contents

Introduction3

Getting Started4

 Creating an Account4

 Dashboard4

 Home Page4

Scout Cards5

 Creation5

 Event Submissions6

 Engagement.....7

Search7

 Tags.....7

 Profiles7

Other Features8

 Vulcan TV.....8

 Reports.....9

 Assessments 10

Conclusion..... 10

Acronyms..... 10



Introduction

Vulcan is a collaborate platform that enables rapid acceleration of technologies through experimentation events. By connecting technologies to thousands of Government scouts, [Vulcan](#) provides a database to submit innovations securely and efficiently. Thousands of users and over 1,000 government organizations are connected across defense and technology sectors for continuous engagement.

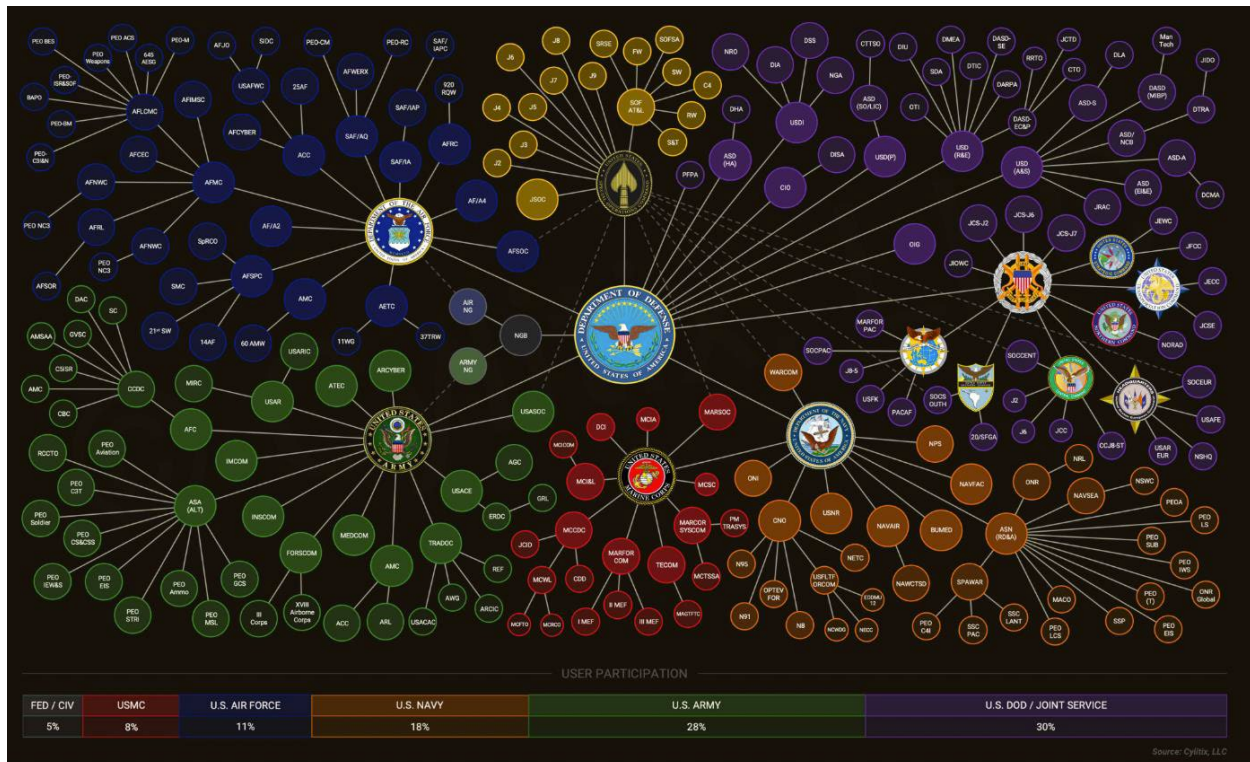


Figure 1 Vulcan Ecosystem



Getting Started

Creating an Account

There are four access levels – Government, Commercial, Academic, and Non-Profit. For a Government account, you will need a .mil address and a government sponsor (most likely a Technical Point of Contact (TPOC)). Fill out your information and await the login code sent to verify your email address (check the spam folder as it can sometimes be flagged). Depending on sponsorship level, you will then need to wait for approval from that individual before your account is fully active. A Commercial account can be created without a .mil address and is ideal for creating Scout Cards and submitting to events. If you have a small business technology you would like to add to this ecosystem, this account level is preferred.

Figure 2 Account Creation Page

Dashboard

The Dashboard is where you can revise your account, review active Scout Cards, events, and any associated deliverables. Some of the information will be pre-filled with the information used to create your account. You can additionally add a profile photo, summary, and preferred contact information using the Settings option to the right of the profile photo. [Tags](#) can also be entered at this time, using keywords such as focus areas that may help other users generate your profile. The QR code icon to the left can be clicked to generate a personal QR code that can be shared via external media to bring users directly to your profile. Please note that profiles are for specific users or organizations, and not to be confused with [Scout Cards](#), which are created for specific technologies.

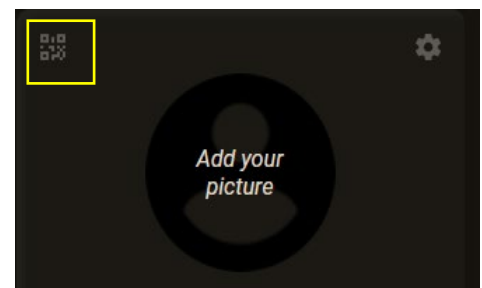


Figure 3 Vulcan Profile

Home Page

The home page has a few areas of interest to start browsing. For Government access, recently added and trending technologies, viewing history, and most active focus areas are consistently updated. For non-Government accounts, trending Calls, Government views of technologies, and Scout Card Strength of technologies are displayed. The banner at the top cycles through new events, important deadlines, and calls for submission. You can also navigate to the toolbar at the top to explore the full catalog of resources, view the



calendar for even more important dates, and access [Vulcan TV](#). Notifications will appear as a red indicator on the bell icon and usually include recently published reports and submission updates.

To create content, select the New option at the top and follow the prompts to create/request [Scout Cards](#), invite other users, or publish information about your own event. Collections are either private (Basic) or widely published (Vulcan Call) to enable you and selected users to collect and share desired capabilities for an event.

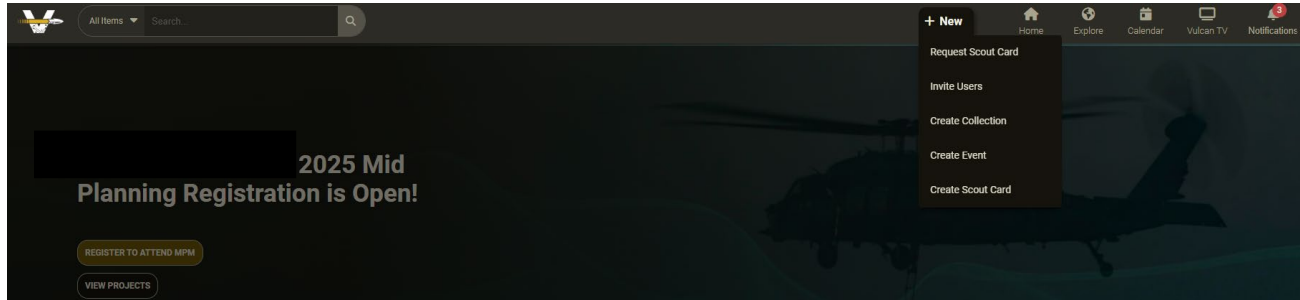


Figure 4 Main Banner & Toolbar

Scout Cards

Creation

There are two ways to enter Scout Cards into Vulcan.

The first is via direct request (invite) from a government user which will provide you with a one-time submission link for that specific solution only.

The second is submitting a solution to a "Call." All open calls in the platform are actively seeking Scout Cards on behalf of a given government agency. You may upload any solution you may have that applies to any of the open calls.

Both methods ensure that content in Vulcan is properly vetted and relevant to the government problem space. Please let the Vulcan Support Team (support@vulcan-sof.com) know if you have any additional questions.

Before submitting a Scout Card, there are a few important notes to keep in mind. The below reminders will present as a prompt upon clicking the Create option. Be prepared with a brief description of the product, photos, applicable keywords (referred to as [Tags](#)), and supporting documents.

- Your Scout Card will remain in draft mode (only visible and editable by members of your organization) until you are ready to submit. Upon hitting the Submit button,



your Scout Card becomes public as Government users can access them by default. There is no private or draft option. You can edit your submission anytime until the event deadline has passed.

- Duplicates will be removed, so ensure someone on your team has not already created one.
- Scout Cards must be for specific technologies, products, and/or services. You do not need to create one for your company or personal profile.

As you fill out the fields to create a Scout Card, Vulcan will have tips alongside each field, marked by a question mark. Utilizing Tags, a strong description, and what sets your technology apart (referred to as a Differentiator) will help to give visibility and search optimization. Accuracy and conciseness are key. There are also fields to include photos, YouTube links, government references, and intellectual property information.

Event Submissions

Scout Cards are used to submit capabilities to open calls. There are two ways to enter Scout Cards into Vulcan as described below. Note event deadlines as once they have passed, Scout Cards may no longer be submitted.

The first method is via **direct request**. This will come in the form of an invitation from a government user that will provide you with a one-time submission link for that specific solution only.

The second method is submitting a solution to an **Open Call**. All open calls in the platform are actively seeking Scout Cards on behalf of a given government agency. You may upload any solution you may have that applies to any of the calls, such as Silent Swarm or Trident Spectre.

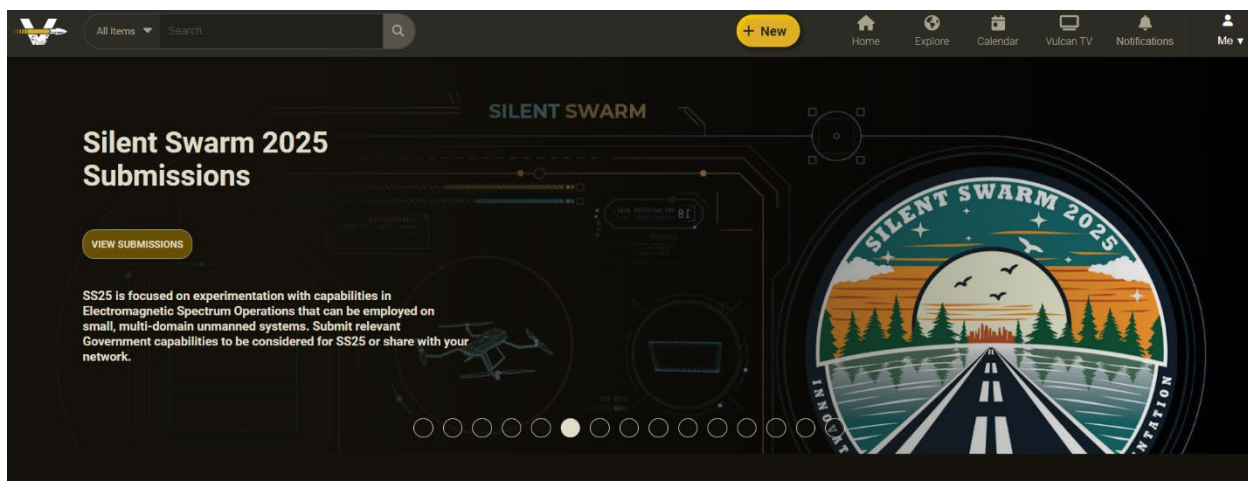


Figure 5 Submitting to an Event



Engagement

Once a Scout Card is created, it may receive various interactions depending on account user level. There is an option to follow or share a Scout Card in the top right corner once you click on the three dots to open the menu. Government users can use **Pokes** to request more information. Once a user selects this option, a pre-set menu will appear with a list of options to request such as government references, specifications, timelines, and other updates. If you are the POC of a Scout Card, you will receive a notification that an anonymous user from a listed organization has requested information. The user will automatically follow the Scout Card once a Poke is sent to receive instant updates.

These users can also leave **Reviews** that are viewable by other Government users. These reviews consist of a star rating and short description detailing if they have used the technology or see a good fit for it. These engagements are valuable and can foster communication about your product, so if you receive a notification that a Poke is requesting more information, it is recommended to update your Scout Card efficiently.

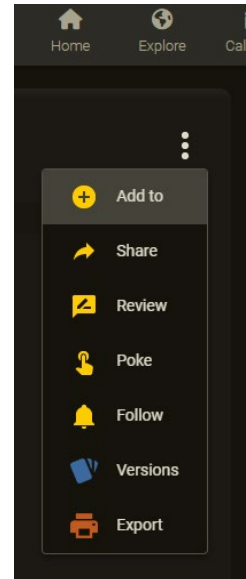


Figure 6 Scout Card Option Menu

Search

Tags

The Search function at the top left can be used to search other users, open calls, reports, or organizations. You can also select to narrow down your search to one of those categories. For example, a general search for 'unmanned systems' or 'ISR' will bring up associated organizations or technologies that have submitted to calls, as well as active calls that may be of interest. Utilizing the Tags function in your personal or company profile, as well as a Scout Card, will help to give greater visibility during a search.

Each Search area will allow you to further refine results. You can sort Scout Cards by Technology Readiness Level (TRL), People/Organizations by account access level, Calls by status, and Reports by Downselect or Assessment status.

Profiles

If you know which event you would like to submit to, type the name to bring up the Event profile, which can list deadlines, objectives, registration links, and processes. Upcoming



events may also be highlighted on the main page. Scout Cards can be viewed for the individual technologies with their TRL, specifications, points of contact, and more.

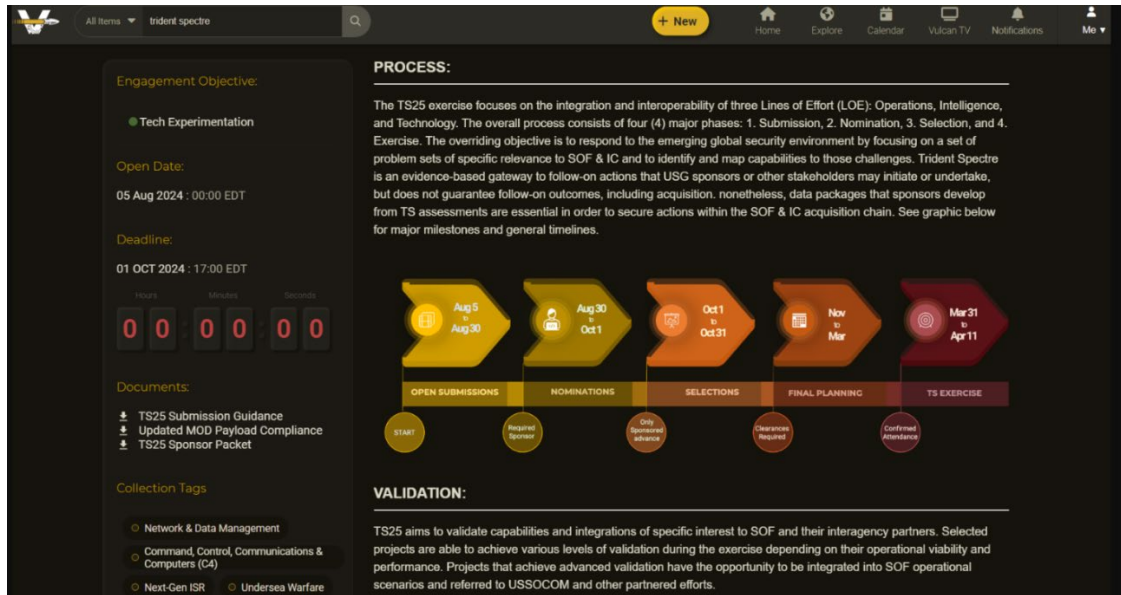


Figure 7 Sample Event Profile

Other Features

Vulcan TV

Vulcan TV hosts a variety of video tutorials, programs, and podcasts geared at enhancing the learning experience on the site and beyond. This is a helpful place to start if you want to further familiarize yourself with Vulcan features and benefits. These videos are hosted on YouTube - click the YouTube logo in the right corner of each video to display in full-screen mode.

To view a short introduction, you can find the SOFIC 2019 video under the Programs tab. This video can serve as a kickoff point before going back to the Tutorials tab to find the various functions explained within this guide in a video format. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) are located on the [Vulcan Help Page](#) accessible under the personal icon at the top far right.

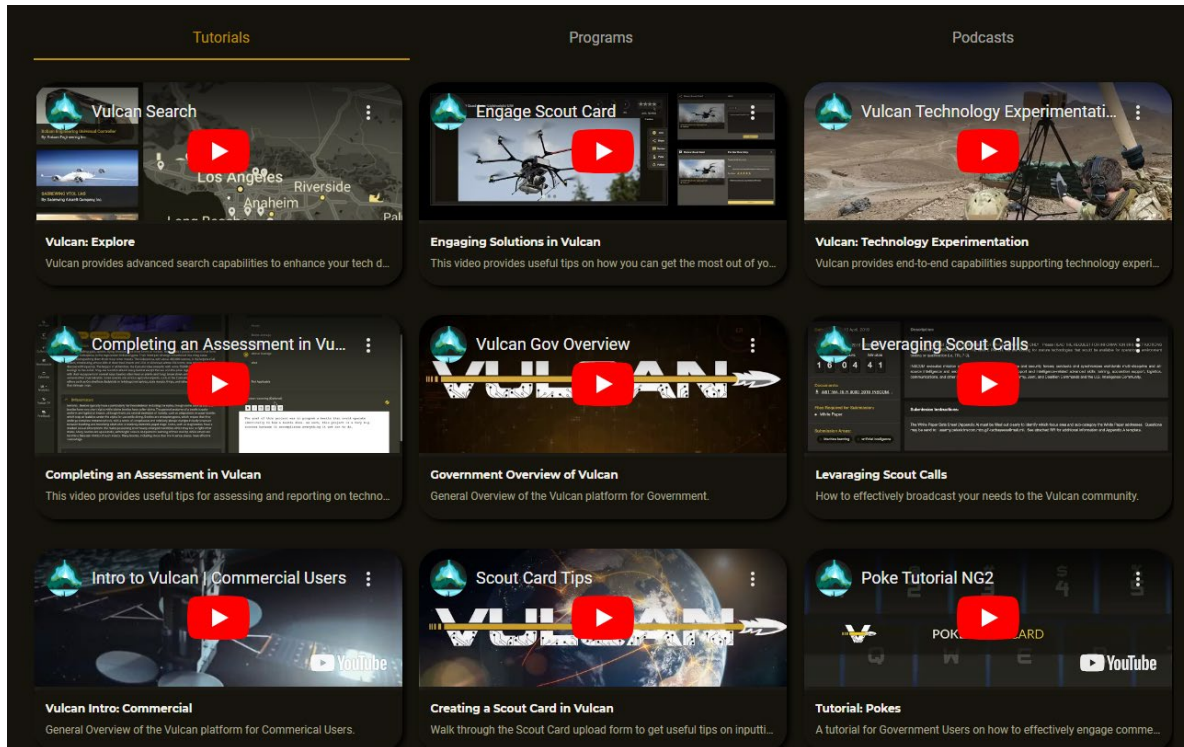


Figure 8 Vulcan TV Library

Reports

Reports are interactive and notifications are often emailed upon their release. Depending on account level, a typical announcement email will look similar to the below, with a link to the report. You may also receive notifications for these via the main Vulcan toolbar.

The following assessment reports have been published in Vulcan:

- [Silent Swarm 2024 \(SS24\) Assessor Observations](#) by U.S. Naval Surface Warfare Center - Crane Division (NSWC Crane)

As a government user, you have the ability to view reports in full and to leverage the knowledge created by your colleagues within the enterprise in order to benefit the innovation objectives of your organization. Technical assessment reports may contain insights on capabilities and solutions of interest to your mission.

Figure 9 Example Report Message

Viewing the report will show you the status (usually Published), editor information, and an option to the right to Share or Export. Please be mindful of any CUI and adhere to all listed distribution statements.



Assessments

If you are selected to be a part of an Assessment Team by a Team Lead or Manager, you will receive an email. Click on the link to go to your Assessment dashboard where you will see the Scout Cards included with options to filter based on account access. Each Card can be selected to progress through criteria such as TRL and metrics. You may answer Not Applicable if a certain criterion does not apply to that Scout Card. Once you are finished, the progress bar will read 100% and the next Scout Card can be assessed.

Conclusion

Whether you are a government user interested in leveraging advanced new technologies, a venue owner, or a groundbreaking technology owner/vendor, Vulcan provides a vast expanse of information and connections to foster innovation.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) technology holders are encouraged to connect with the DoN SBIR Experimentation Cell ([DoN-SEC](#)) with any questions or desired objectives for experimentation.

Acronyms

Refer to the list below for a list of the most common acronyms across Vulcan.

- AOI - Areas of Interest
- BAA - Broad Agency Announcement
- CRADA - Cooperative Research & Development Agreements
- CTR - Contractor
- CUI - Controlled Unclassified Information
- DON - Department of the Navy
- EIS - Enterprise Informations Systems
- eSOF - Engage SOF
- FW - Fixed Wing
- JATF - Joint Acquisition Task Force
- KO - Contracting Officer
- LNO - Liaison Officer
- M - Maritime
- OSBP - Office of Small Business Programs
- PEO - Program Executive Office
- PM - Program Manager



- POC - Point of Contact
- RFI - Request for Information
- RFP - Request for Proposal
- RW - Rotary Wing
- SAM.gov - System for Award Management website
- SBIR - Small Business Innovation Research
- SDA - SOF Digital Applications
- SME - Subject Matter Expert
- SMO - Security Management Office
- SOF - Special Operation Forces
- SOF AT&L - Special Operation Forces Acquisition, Technology, & Logistics
- SOW - Statement of Work
- SW - SOF Warrior
- ST/S&T - Science and Technology
- STTR - Small Business Technology Transfer
- TDWG - Technology Development Working Group
- TE - Technical Experimentation
- TRL - Technology Readiness Level
- TIS - Tactical Information Systems
- USSOCOM/SOCOM - United States Special Operations Command