



Government of Pakistan
Cabinet Division
Special Technology Zones Authority



PRESS RELEASE

STZA AND KPITB SIGN PAKISTAN DIGITAL CITY ZONE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT VALUED AT PKR 8 BILLION THROUGH STRATEGIC ENABLEMENT FROM SPECIAL INVESTMENT FACILITATION COUNCIL (SIFC)

[25 April, 2024 – Peshawar] – The Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board (KPITB) signed a zone development agreement worth PKR 8 Billion to establish Pakistan Digital City, a first-of-its-kind information technology focused Special Technology Zone in the province. The progress of this groundbreaking project has been significantly accelerated through the strategic support of the SIFC which has identified Special Technology Zones as a central pillar in its economic strategy. The SIFC plays a crucial role in expediting processes and fostering cross-departmental cooperation, thereby cultivating an ecosystem that enhances technological advancement.

In the wake of this agreement, STZA has verified and licensed KPITB's Project to enable a world-class technology ecosystem and establish a signature platform for the youth of the country which will be built on 11 Acres of land providing approx 480,000 sqft high-quality tech infrastructure in Haripur to be fully operational by 2026. It is expected to create more than 4000 high tech jobs with a export potential of USD 25 - 50 million per year through nurturing start-ups and SMEs in IT sector. The Pakistan Digital City will host the ICT companies including some of the biggest names in the ICT industry.

The official signing ceremony, held at the KPITB Office, brought together the leadership teams of KPITB and STZA establishing a foundational alliance poised to drive innovation and accelerate growth within the burgeoning national technology industry. The Pakistan Digital City presents a unique technology destination opportunity in the province where 50% of the population is under 30 years of age, as well as producing 6000 ICT graduates annually.

The Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA), led by the Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan as President of the Board of Governors, serves as the federal regulator for Special Technology Zones (STZs) throughout the country. STZA's core mandate is to license Special Technology Zones and technology companies in alignment with the Triple Helix Model of Innovation, providing a framework that intertwines academia, industry, and government to propel the knowledge and technology sectors forward. In its commitment to cultivate a thriving technology ecosystem, STZA extends comprehensive fiscal and monetary incentives for 10-years to both public and private enterprises, encouraging significant financial, technical and intellectual capital influx for knowledge ecosystem development in Pakistan.

The licensed zones are designated for exclusive use by technology firms, which, in turn, benefit from a decade of fiscal and monetary advantages. Additionally, STZA simplifies the business process by offering a One-Window facility for all regulatory approvals, thereby enhancing the ease of doing business and ensuring a cost-competitive environment for innovators and entrepreneurs in the technology domain to compete globally.



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The signing of the Development Agreement was done by Mr. Aamer Saleemi, (ED Zones and Zone developer/Member), and Dr Akif Khan, Managing Director KPITB. The ceremony was graced by the presence of notable dignitaries from KP Government, STZA and KPITB, including Mr. Khalid Latif, Special Assistant to CM KP on ST&IT, Mr. Syed Muhammad Ali Shah, Secretary ST&IT department, Ms. Iqra Mussadaq, Chief Legal Officer, Mr. Imran Bhamboro Director Zone Developer Enablement and other leaders from STZA side, as well MD KPITB,

Mr. Aamer Saleemi, Member Zones of STZA, offered an assertive endorsement of the development agreement, stating, "The establishment of PAKISTAN DIGITAL CITY is a testament to our commitment to supporting visionary projects that can redefine the technological landscape of Pakistan. We stand ready to provide our full support to KPITB in this transformative endeavor."

Dr. Akif Khan, MD KPITB "Together with the STZA, we aim to build a technology ecosystem for entrepreneurship, R&D, and tech-driven innovation in the country. We expect to engage in collective efforts to enable incentives for Zone Enterprises and Co-Zone Developers operating in the Zone, and develop research and training programs for the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa."

Mr. Hamza Saeed Orakzai, the Chief Market Development Officer at STZA, stated that it is heartening to see provincial governments taking keen interest in setting up world-class technology ecosystems for the youth of the country who are the main drivers of our future economic growth. He also mentioned that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been a key enabler for STZA to accelerate the roll-out of tech zones across the country, both in public and private sector, and this acceleration will only increase through the strategic alliance of SIFC and STZA.

For more information about the projects and other initiatives by the STZA, please visit www.stza.gov.pk. For any specific information related to the "Pakistan Digital City" and KPITB please visit www.kpitb.gov.pk