



CENTRE for AEROSPACE & SECURITY STUDIES

'CASS Engages with NICAT Startups to Drive Innovation and Research'

Press Release

30 October 2024



The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, hosted an engaging session with startup teams from the National Incubation Centre for Aerospace Technologies (NICAT) to exchange ideas and explore research-driven solutions. The visit aligns with CASS's ongoing mission to foster a research-oriented startup ecosystem in Pakistan, advancing the fields of technology, aerospace and national security.

The **Startup Teams**, representing diverse fields such as AI, robotics, drone technology, and sustainable innovations, introduced their projects and shared progress of their ventures. The ventures were a reflection of the potential for homegrown technological solutions to address national and global challenges. The energy and enthusiasm displayed by the innovators demonstrated the vital role of youth-led entrepreneurship in driving Pakistan's progress.



The startup presentations were followed by a briefing by **Air Commodore Raza Haider (Retd)**, Director at CASS, who shared insights on the evolving role of aerospace technologies. He highlighted the importance of integrating cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Unmanned Aerial Systems, and hypersonics into modern defence strategies. The discussion focused on how emerging technologies are reshaping the battlefield, with a particular emphasis on the growing importance of drones and AI in operational theaters. Air Commodore Haider underscored the significance of

aligning Pakistan's aerospace sector with global technological trends to remain competitive. He also stressed the need for innovative collaboration between military, industrial and academic sectors to foster sustainable growth in the aerospace domain.



The session concluded with remarks by **Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd)**, President of CASS, who highlighted the significance of incubation setups in shaping the future of the aerospace sector and the importance of nurturing these entrepreneurial initiatives. He highlighted how incubation setups like NICAT play a crucial role in transforming innovative ideas into viable solutions that contribute to Pakistan's technological sovereignty. *'There are pockets of excellence across the country,'* he noted, *'and it is our responsibility to nurture and connect them to the broader ecosystem.'* He also

expressed appreciation for the young entrepreneurs' passion, creativity, and resilience, acknowledging their efforts as key to shaping the future of the aerospace sector.



The interaction underscored the importance of bridging research with entrepreneurship. The interactive session encouraged knowledge-sharing, while discussions explored collaborative opportunities between CASS, NICAT and the startups to foster research-backed innovation and sustainable growth in Pakistan's tech and aerospace sectors.