



Government of Pakistan
Cabinet Division
Special Technology Zones Authority



PRESS RELEASE

MOU SIGNING BETWEEN MASTER CARD AND STZA

October 14, 2021

A high-profile delegation of the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) visited Dubai with Dr. Arif Alvi, the Honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The STZA delegation led by Mr. Amer Hashmi, the Chairman of STZA included Mr. Abdul Rahim, the Chief Information Officer, Mr. Hamza Saeed Orakzai, who serves as the Director for Planning and Stratcom – as well as the Director for Marketing and PR, Mrs. Hina Nasir. The visit constituted a remarkable line-up of strategic engagements with high-profile tech investors, entrepreneurs, and venture capitalists throughout the day.

Mastercard has signed a strategic digital country partnership with the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) in Pakistan to expand the nation's digital economy and advance Pakistan's technology sector. The MOU was signed in the United Arab Emirates in line with the start of Expo 2020 Dubai, where Dr. Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan, met with Khalid Elgibali, Division President of Mastercard Middle East and North Africa, and a delegation from STZA and Mastercard. In collaboration with the STZA, Mastercard will develop Pakistan's first cashless Special Technology Zones, which looks to deploy smart city solutions, support small and medium enterprises, boost artificial intelligence and cybersecurity capabilities, and promote the use of Agritech.

While exclusively speaking to the Gulf News, Mr. Amer Hashmi, Chairman of STZA explained: "Pakistan must create new high-tech industries such as cyber security solutions, systems integration, data centers, strategic IT outsourcing, and cloud services. The idea behind STZA is to create diversified zones with some focusing on high-end technology such as machine learning, blockchain, and artificial intelligence."

About STZA: The STZA has been established by the Government of Pakistan with a mandate to provide a world-class digital and physical infrastructure through setting up Special Technology Zones (STZs) across the country, to position Pakistan on the global technology radar. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan, serves as the President of the STZA Board of Governors (BoG). The Authority is committed to building knowledge ecosystems for an entrepreneurial, innovative, and tech-driven future of the country.