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# IIT-K launches advanced defence testing facilities with industry giants

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Kanpur: IIT-Kanpur Research and Technology Park Foundation (Technopark@IITK) entered into agreements with two Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) – UAS Testing Foundation and Communication (Defence) Testing Foundation – to establish state-of-the-art Defence Testing Infrastructure at Technopark@IITK. These facilities will focus on two critical domains of Defence: Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Communication Systems.

The UAS Testing Foundation is a consortium comprising HAL, BEL, BEML, Yantra India Limited (YIL), Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited (GIL), and EndureAir Systems, while the Communication (Defence) Testing Foundation includes HAL, BEL, Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), and BEML. UPEIDA and Technopark@IITK are integral members of both consortiums.

The testing infrastructure is being established under the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS), an initiative of the Department of Defence Production (DDP) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), IIT said.

This scheme aims to provide accessible and high-quality testing facilities to address the needs of the domestic defence industry.

Professor-in-Charge, Technopark@IITK, Prof Amarendra Singh said, "This facility represents a win-win for both industry and academia. On one hand, the state-of-the-art machines and high-end equipment will be accessible to our faculty and students for research.

On the other hand, MSMEs utilising this facility will have the opportunity to leverage IITK's technical expertise to address their R&D challenges."

In February 2018, PM Modi announced the establishment of two defence corridors in India - the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC) and the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC). As part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen the indigenous defence ecosystem, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) subsequently launched the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) to set up Central Defence Testing Facilities. Chief General Manager, UPDIC, Col Sanjay Singh said, "R&D and testing are among the most resource-intensive activities in the defence industry.

To address these needs, the MoD approved the establishment of advanced testing facilities. These testing centres are also envisioned to evolve into certification centres in the future, a role currently exclusive to defence agencies."