

Dr K Rajalakshmi Menon

Dr K Rajalakshmi Menon began her career at DRDO in 1988 as a Scientist-B at CABS, then known as ASWAC, following her MSc in Computer Science from the University of Pune. She further pursued her Master's in Engineering and a PhD in Aerospace Engineering from the Indian Institute of Science.

She played a key role in the design and development of Airborne Surveillance Systems. Her expertise encompasses System Engineering of Complex Systems, Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR), Image Intelligence, Guidance and Control, Battle Management as well as System Design and Analysis of Airborne Radars and Electronic Warfare sensors.

Dr K Rajalakshmi Menon advanced to the position of associate programme director (Airborne Early Warning and Control) in 2015, where she played a pivotal role in System Engineering, Mission System Integration and Flight Testing. Her efforts led to the induction of the AEW&C system into the Indian Air Force in February 2017, making India the fifth country globally to have an indigenous Active Electronically Scanned Array-based AEW&C system. She has also guided the design and development of Imaging Radars for UAVs, fighters, satellites and manned platforms.

She was appointed as Director, CABS from 31 Dec 2021 till 18 Nov 2024 wherein she steered the Airborne Surveillance Programs of the Country namely AEW&C, AEW&C MK 2, MMMA/MRMR, SCA and ISTAR.

She has been appointed as DG(Aero) from 01 Sep 2024 wherein she will steer all Aero Cluster activities of DRDO. She has published many papers in Conference & journals. She has won many awards, prominent ones being Distinguished Alumni award from Prestigious IISc, Outstanding Women Scientist of the year award from Aeronautical Society of India, DRDO scientist of the year and Smt Sushma Swaraj Shree Shakthi award. She is fellow of National Academy of Engineering and Senior member of IEEE and has held position of Chair IEEE AEES Bangalore Chapter.