



NEXTSTEP

i n n o v a t i o n c e n t e r

ABOUT US

Next Step Innovation Center is the first startup incubator in Azerbaijan.

Established in 2015, Next Step IC helps early-stage companies grow and succeed by providing a range of resources, mentorship, and support.



OUR FIRST PREMISE



OUR FIRST MENTORS



Lessons from Silicon Valley: Igniting Innovation



Naeem Zafar

Naeem is a faculty member at the University of California Berkeley, Center of Entrepreneurship and Technology. He is a co-founder as the CEO of Bitzer Mobile. Naeem works with the US State Department in promoting across the world. Naeem has authored five books on entrepreneurship.



Rick Rasmussen

Rick Rasmussen works with governments and economic development agencies looking to connect with Silicon Valley. He spent nine years at LSI Logic where he spearheaded new development of RISC microprocessors. Mr. Rasmussen earned a Electrical Engineering and Computer Science degree from the University of California at Berkeley.



Jason Eichenholz

Jason M. Eichenholz Ph. D. is a parallel entrepreneur and co-founder of Luminar. Jason has been actively involved in laser, optics and photonics research for more than 20 years. He holds nine US Patents on new types of solid-state lasers, displays and photonic devices.



Austin Russell

Austin Russell is founder and CEO at Luminar Technologies. Austin completed his first big project in the sixth grade. Austin is focusing on 3D depth mapping and projection of interactive holograms through a compact laser-based module.



Ilja Gruen

Ilja Gruen is a partner at Botan Investment Venture Fund. Since 2011 Ilja has been teaching and consulting in the area of high tech. He has also been involved in organizing business programs focusing on Silicon Valley's innovative ecosystem. Ilja holds a doctoral degree (PhD) from Stanford University.

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WHAT WE DO

01

Incubation
Programs

02

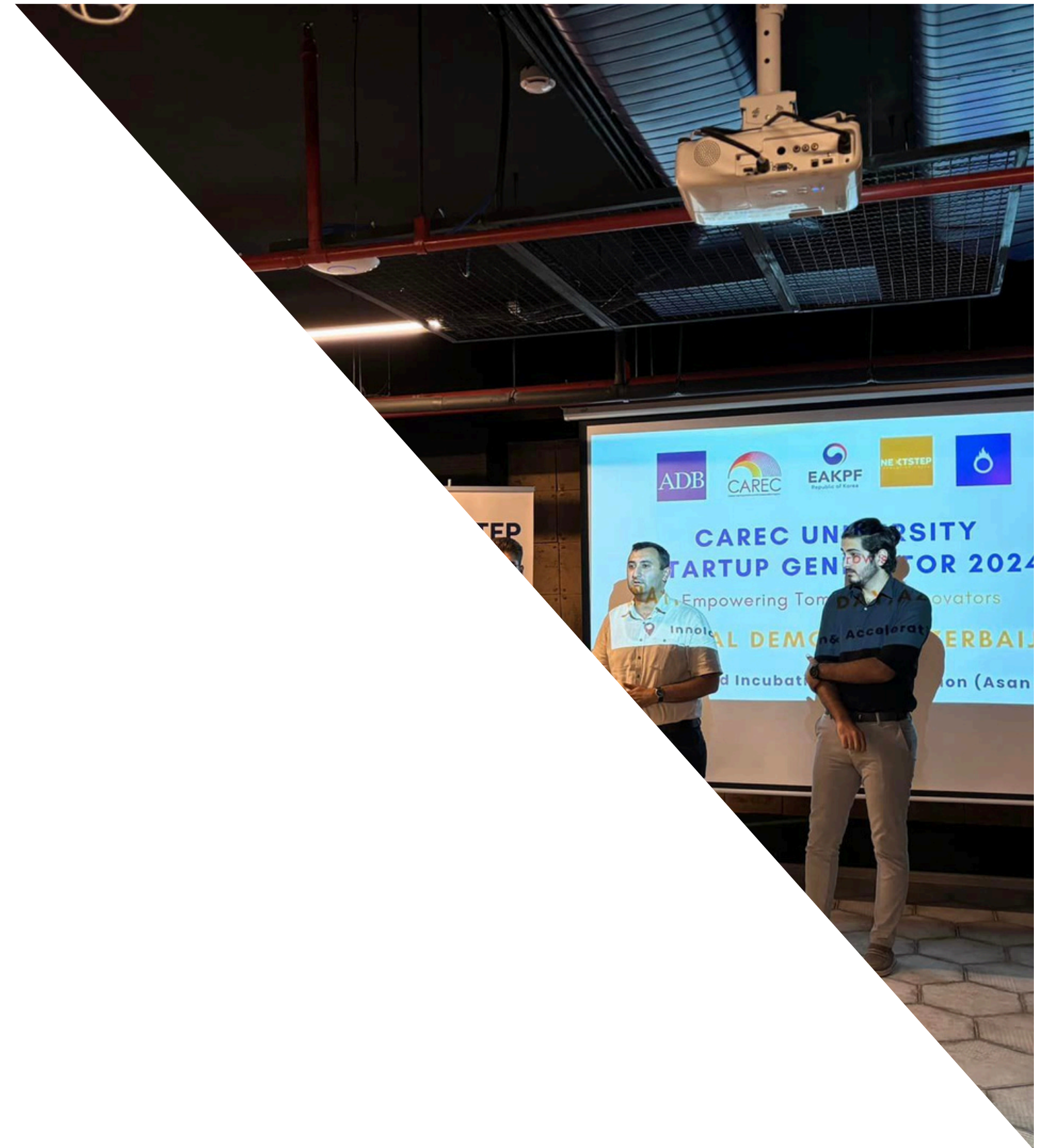
Community
Events

03

Demo Days

04

Hackathons



INCUBATION PROGRAM

- Duration: 6 months
- Number of Startups: 6 startup teams
- Number of Trainings: 20 training programs led by foreign and local trainers, as well as members of the tech diaspora
- Total Number of One-on-One Mentoring Sessions per Team: 40
- Daily Tracking: Continuous monitoring throughout the 6-month program by the Next Step team
- Weekly Mentoring Focus Areas: Business mentoring, tech mentoring, UX/UI, and product design



KEY STATISTICS

01 10 Incubation Programs

02 70 alumni startups

03 10 Demo Days



OUR MENTORS

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**INCUBATION PROGRAM
Trainer**



**Anar
Aligulov**
Business development
director, R.I.S.K Company

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**INCUBATION PROGRAM
Trainer**



**Garib
Mehdiyev**
Co-founder and CTO,
WeTravel

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**Fuad
Malikov**
Engineering Leader,
Google

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Trainer**



**Vusal
Dadalov**
Co-Founder & CEO, iomete

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**Nail
Valiyev**
Senior Product Owner,
The Qt Company

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**Orkhan
Hajiyev**
Head of Growth at
Uvodo

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THANK YOU