

**Special Issue: 2025
Mid-Year Update**

Launching the CXO Program

A new BRITEnetwork

Annual Impact Report

2024

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Annual Impact Report



This year marked a period of extraordinary achievement for BRITE, driven by the dedication, creativity, and resilience of our team and board. Together, we advanced our mission to accelerate energy innovation in Ohio and beyond—empowering entrepreneurs, scaling impactful technologies, and forging strategic partnerships that are reshaping the future of advanced energy.

Our team delivered record-breaking support to startups, secured competitive national funding, and expanded our programs to reach more founders than ever before. None of this would be possible without the unwavering leadership of our board, whose strategic guidance and commitment to BRITE's vision have been instrumental in positioning us as a national leader in energy innovation. Their collective efforts continue to inspire our momentum and amplify our impact.

Richard Stockburger, outgoing President & CEO

A LETTER FROM THE OUTGOING CEO

As Chair of the Board, it's a privilege to reflect on another milestone year for BRITE. In a time of transformation across the energy landscape, BRITE continues to serve as a powerful engine for innovation, job creation, and regional economic resilience.

Our mission remains clear: accelerate the advanced energy economy through technology commercialization. The results speak volumes. BRITE-supported companies have now raised over \$200 million annually for the third consecutive year, and they continue to win customers across new markets. These historic metrics underscore the real-world impact of our efforts—not just on paper, but in factories, labs, and communities across Ohio and between the mountains.

On behalf of the Board, thank you to the BRITE team, our partners, and our entrepreneurs for your unwavering commitment to building the future of energy.

Michael Stacey, Board Chair, BRITE
Managing Director, KPMG

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Board of Directors

Michael Stacey

Director
KPMG
Chair, Governance

Alexa Sweeney-Blackann

Former Owner & President
Sweeney Chevrolet Buick GMC
Secretary, Governance

Courtney Gras

Startup Community Lead
Amazon Web Services
Vice Chair, External Affairs

Tim Petrey

Managing Member
HD Davis CPAs, LLC
Treasurer, Internal Affairs

External Affairs

Djifa Amefia

Managing Partner
ClarIT Solutions LLC

Alex Fitzsimmons

Sila Nanotechnologies, Inc.

Michael Hartley

President
Swing State Strategies

Jen Lynch

Principal
Remington Road Group

Albert Green

Chief Executive Officer
AMG Consulting Group

Internal Affairs

Muhammad Ejaz

Founder & President
Ejaz Microelectronics LLC

Todd Johnson

Pastor/Reverend
Community Leader

Michael Repetto

Sr. Director, Project
Management Office
FoxConn

Patricia Grosipiron

Executive Director, Building
Platform
The Engine Accelerator

Governance

Heather Taylor-Miesle

Senior VP, Advocacy & Regional
Conservation
American Rivers

Chuck George

CEO
Hapco, Inc.

Marvin Logan Jr.

Director, Education &
Employment
Rocket Community Fund



Our Impact

In 2024, BRITE continued to deliver measurable progress in advancing the energy economy. From supporting emerging technologies to strengthening the innovation pipeline, our work created tangible value for startups, communities, and stakeholders across the nation. This data (excluding follow-on funding, public funding received, patents approved, and revenue generated) accompanies the JumpStart 2024 Economic and Fiscal Impact Report prepared by Silverlode Consulting, LLC.

“MEETING THE RISING DEMAND FOR ENERGY REQUIRES MORE THAN JUST SCALING WHAT WE HAVE—IT CALLS FOR FRESH THINKING. INNOVATION UNLOCKS SMARTER, MORE EFFICIENT, AND MORE ACCESSIBLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS THAT POWER PROGRESS FOR EVERYONE.”

Jing Lyon, BRITE

\$201M

**Follow-on Funding
(Dilutive or Non-dilutive)**

\$60M

Public Funding Received

130

**Companies
Served**

\$66M

**Revenue
Generated**

282

**Patents
Approved**

\$270M

Total Economic Output

1,686

Jobs Created & Maintained

\$13M

**State & Local
Taxes Generated**

1,114

Households Supported

\$30M

**Federal Taxes
Generated**

\$139M

Labor Income



Programs

BY LUCAS KING
STARTUP PROGRAMS MANAGER

BRITE operated throughout 2024 with a people-first mindset. Each stage of our holistic program support was designed to ensure we could meet founders where they are. The lessons learned provided opportunities to refine our member experience.

Through three BRITEbase cohorts, two BRITEelevate cohorts, one BRITEascent cohort, and the launch of our CXO Program, we gathered extensive founder feedback to enhance our core programs. We closed the year by creating new workshops and revising curricula, ensuring that our support helps move founders toward commercialization.

In our work with founders we often advise of the need for open communication channels that promote constant iteration in pursuit of creating a solution that provides truly unique value. We regularly engage in a similar process. Founders are at the center of everything we do and we remain excited to continue supporting the future of energy innovations through our member program journey.

To learn more about BRITE's Startup Programs, please visit <https://brite.org/for-startups-overview/>.



LUCAS KING (BRITE), CLIFFORD WOOD (PRAIRIE WIND GROUP), JOE ROHAN (BRITE)



LAND ENERGY X CLEVELAND POLICE



2024 Program Participants

BRITEbase

Anabaena | Green Bean | Intuitive Design LLC | emoov LLC | Litterless | OTEK Solutions | Solvion Engineering | SURESWITCH | Thermex Geothermal Solutions | AKROBATS | UnInc - Lolo Ofokansi | UnInc - Adnan El Youssi | Valowaste | Watts A Day | X-inator | Galvanix

BRITEelevate

AnywherEnergy Systems | Eternium Aerospace | Metasorbex | Petra Power | One Planet Media | NavaFlex | Empower Battery Technology | Liberas | Sky Solar Energy | Skycharge | Ion Tech Energy Solutions | Nautica Windpower LLC

BRITEascent

Floesafe | Vroom Solar | StormImpact | Prezerv AI | Aronetics | Anywherenergy systems | emoov llc | Carbon Clear | NavaFlex | Petra Power | Octet Scientific | Leaf | Wenalytics IoT Solutions | PlugOp | Trip Bikes



BRITT CORSI (EARTHABC)
RANDY COLE (BRITE)



National Reach

In 2024, BRITE's presence across the nation was a powerful catalyst for connection, collaboration, and advanced energy growth. We hosted and co-led more than 25 events, convenings, and workshops in the Mahoning Valley and beyond—bringing together entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and community leaders who share our vision for an advanced energy future.

Through events large and small, BRITE built bridges across sectors, generations, and geographies. And in 2025, we plan to grow that presence even more—deeper in communities, louder in policy circles, and stronger across the innovation landscape.



HILL DAY FOR THE NATIONAL COALITION OF ENERGY INCUBATORS (LACI, ORLENTOWN LABS, SPARK, ATI, ACTIVATE, EVERGREEN, MEIA, BRITE)



**“OUR STARTUPS ARE THE
HEARTBEAT OF BRITE, AND
THE ADVANCED ENERGY
ECOSYSTEM AROUND
THEM CONTINUES TO
SERVE AS THE FUEL OF
THE WORK THAT WE DO”**

Victoria Rusu, BRITE

Advanced Energy NEO

In May of 2024, we had the pleasure of welcoming our Northeast Ohio ecosystem to The City Club of Cleveland for an engaging afternoon of learning, networking, and exploring opportunities for growth. Our speakers brought incredible insight and shared their expertise, taking audience questions and helping provide meaningful feedback to accelerate our advanced energy economy across Northeast Ohio. Speakers included: Nana Menya Ayensu, Special Assistant to the President on Climate Policy, Finance, and Innovation at The White House, Tony Richardson, President of The George Gund Foundation, Bethia Burke, President of the Fund for our Economic Future, John Duer, Chief Legal Officer at Illuminate USA, Tom Gallagher, VP Operations at Ultium Cells, and Robert Schlaeger of Hon Hai USA (Foxconn), and The Honorable Daniel Simmons, Principal of Simmons Energy and Environmental Strategies; Former Assistant Secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the Department of Energy.

We featured 11 of BRITE's Startup Member Companies during our Startup Showcase, where participants learned more about the work startups right here in Ohio are doing to innovate and accelerate the advanced energy economy.

200+
Attendees
at Advanced
Energy NEO



Strategic Partnerships



Advanced energy technology—particularly energy storage—holds transformative potential for Ohio's economy. For every dollar invested in energy storage, the return is felt across the regional supply chain, from advanced manufacturing to logistics and professional services. Wages in the sector are nearly double the initial investment impact, and the ripple effects touch every corner of the community through higher earnings, increased tax revenues, and new business formation.

Recognizing this potential, BRITE focused many of its 2024 strategic partnerships and funded projects on building the infrastructure for long-term advanced energy success. This included leading and supporting initiatives aimed at workforce development, regional collaboration, and advanced energy advocacy—all with the goal of strengthening Northeast Ohio's position as a hub for advanced energy manufacturing.

Community Energy Innovation Prize (CEIP) | U.S Department of Energy

BRITE's CEIP efforts aimed to enhance clean energy manufacturing in the Mahoning Valley. Key initiatives included supporting Tata Steel's 48C tax credit application, connecting them with local partners for workforce training, and promoting environmental justice. Discussions at the Warren YWCA connected residents with access to resources like financial literacy and childcare to help them enter manufacturing roles. Collaborations with Ultium Cells and Foxconn facilitated hiring events that engaged disadvantaged communities, offering immediate job opportunities and supporting long-term workforce development.



ULTIUM CELLS AT BRITE

Manufacturer of Advanced Key Energy Infrastructure Technologies (MAKE IT) Prize | U.S Department of Energy

As part of the MAKE IT Prize initiative, BRITE and Team NEO led a regional campaign to engage Northeast Ohio manufacturers in advanced energy and sustainability strategies. Outreach efforts focused on a broad cross-section of industries—including automotive, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, and energy—with the goal of aligning local production with the nation's energy transition. The team took a proactive, in-person approach, meeting directly with partners to introduce a regional advanced energy roadmap. This framework not only addressed what companies produce, but how they produce it—emphasizing sustainable operations, energy efficiency, and low-carbon processes. Through these conversations, the team identified critical needs, barriers, and opportunities for manufacturing companies, resulting in a growing coalition of manufacturers committed to leading innovation, and reinforcing Northeast Ohio's role as an advanced energy manufacturing hub.



COMMUNITY EVENT AT BRITE

IN2 Strategic Award | NREL

Through the IN2 Strategic Award, BRITE produced a workshop, titled "Mock Venture Capital Interviews" at NREL's inaugural "Camp Cleantech" event. The workshop provided founders with a simulated experience of the venture capital process similar to mock interviews at college career centers. At each stage, participants received curated reference documents to help them craft their materials, prepare for their interviews, and gain a deeper understanding of the venture capital approach.



Annual Impact Report



CAMP CLEANTECH |
PHOTO BY KIRA VOS

"I WILL REDO MY WHOLE PITCH AFTER THE COACHING. I WAS PITCHING A STORY THAT WAS TOO BROAD..., SO THEY TOLD ME TO FLIP IT—START NARROW... IT WAS A VERY EASY WAY I COULD VISUALIZE MY PITCH IMPROVING."

Mock Venture Interview
Workshop Participant

Following our success with Camp Cleantech, BRITE leveraged follow-on funding to extend invitations to Camp Cleantech Workshop participants for our BRITEascent program. BRITEascent is an intensive 8-week initiative led by BRITE's experts-in-residence, designed to help founders prepare for and navigate the venture funding landscape. Of the eight companies formally invited to participate on an NREL-sponsored scholarship, three accepted and joined the cohort alongside five existing BRITE member companies. From October to early December, participants engaged in investor-style pitch preparation, comprehensive fundraising strategy reviews, data room development, and due diligence guidance.

Many startups from the event have expressed interest in continuing to work with BRITE after Camp Cleantech—even ones that weren't selected for the follow-on opportunity in BRITEascent. One of our project leads had a founder tell him that " (BRITE's workshop) was the most valuable part of the entire event" for their company.



CAMP CLEANTECH | PHOTO BY KIRA VOS

Energy Program for Innovation Clusters (EPIC) | U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Technology Transitions (OTT)

Universities have under-tapped potential to drive innovation, which attracts R&D investment from both private and public sources. However, transitioning this research into market-ready solutions is challenging, often facing a "valley of death" when moving technologies beyond the university ecosystem. In EPIC Round 3 Phase I, BRITE successfully launched a university-focused cohort of our BRITEbase program in partnership with over a dozen universities. This pilot program resulted in seven graduating startup founders, equipped with the business acumen needed to complement their technical expertise.

As part of EPIC Round 3 Phase I, BRITE hosted a statewide startup weekend, engaging a diverse array of partners and serving as a platform to introduce participants to challenges in the energy sector. Structured around three key challenges—technology, corporate, and social good—the event highlighted real-world issues. In collaboration with NASA Glenn, we focused on three technologies from their patent portfolio, while Procter & Gamble presented pressing challenges related to their manufacturing processes. Additionally, the social good challenge encouraged participants to develop innovative solutions that could benefit communities impacted by the energy transition. Participants not only created groundbreaking solutions but also forged valuable connections with mentors, corporate partners, and fellow innovators, setting the stage for future initiatives in energy innovation and exemplifying the potential for collective impact in this vital sector.

For more insight into BRITE's strategic partnerships and projects, please visit www.brite.org/news.

"INCREDIBLE EVENT AND VERY GLAD THAT I WAS ABLE TO NETWORK WITH THE STUDENTS AND MENTORS. "

Benjamin Kroeck, Enbridge
Startup Weekend Mentor



PRESENTING TEAM AT
STARTUP WEEKEND



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2025 Mid-Year Update

Introducing: CXO Program

Lead by Manoj Jhaveri,
CXO Program Lead

BRITEnetwork

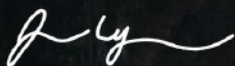
Join the advanced energy
ecosystem through our all-
new event series

A LETTER FROM **THE INTERIM CEO**

Stepping into the role of Interim CEO at BRITE is an honor, and I'm excited to be leading this next chapter—building on the great work we're doing. I started my career as a founder in the energy space, navigating the uncertainty, urgency, and excitement that comes with building something from the ground up. I joined BRITE to help create the kind of programs, resources, and community I wish I'd had as a founder—because it's individuals with vision and grit, not just ideas or technology, who move innovation forward.

During my time at BRITE, I've had the opportunity to work with an incredible team to build out our programs, strengthen our network, and expand our reach across the region. As we move through this leadership transition, I'm focused on maintaining the culture, stability, and momentum that have made BRITE a trusted partner in shaping the future of the energy economy.

I'm energized by what lies ahead and look forward to continuing this mission—supporting bold founders and accelerating critical solutions for a more sustainable energy future.



Jing Lyon, Interim CEO





Introducing: CXO Program

LED BY MANOJ JHAVERI
CXO PROGRAM LEAD



Successful technology commercialization is never simply about having the right technology; it requires a founding team with the vision, skills, and market understanding to bring that technology to market. Once technology has been developed and vetted against industry needs, companies must take decisive steps to integrate it into a product and scale.

These challenges are even more acute for underrepresented founders who often lack access to experienced leadership—especially in fundraising, market positioning, and scaling. BRITE's CXO Program addresses these gaps by embedding fractional executives (ex-founders and operators) directly into startup teams, offering hands-on, execution-focused leadership that accelerates progress, lowers risk, and improves outcomes. This levels the playing field and fosters a more inclusive innovation economy.

Access to capital remains a major hurdle—especially in deeptech and hardtech cleantech sectors, where capital intensity is high. The CXO Program helps founders craft investor-ready strategies, build compelling materials, and connect with BRITE's national cleantech investor network. Finally, limited networks can isolate founders from vital industry and commercialization connections. BRITE's CXO team opens doors to partnerships, customers, and go-to-market resources that founders might otherwise struggle to reach.

By matching top startups with the right fractional leaders, BRITE's CXO Program acts as a dynamic, cost-effective solution to accelerate commercialization. This skills-on-demand model enhances strategic, operational, and fundraising capabilities—addressing the very reasons 90% of startups fail. The program is not advisory. It is integrated execution, tailored to move startups from validation to market success.



15 CXO Team Members

“THE BEST FEATURE WAS THAT LEADERS IN THE CXO PROGRAM ARE FOUNDERS THEMSELVES, SO THEY HAD BEEN EXACTLY WHERE I AM.”

Onas Bolton
CEO & Founder, Octet Scientific

The BRITE CXO Program is not only accelerating individual startups—it is strengthening Ohio's position as a national leader in clean energy innovation. By embedding seasoned leaders into high-potential cleantech ventures, we are bridging critical gaps in talent, execution, and capital access—three pillars essential to commercialization success.

To date, the CXO Program has supported over *25 startup clients*, delivering targeted, high-impact expertise in operations, finance, marketing, and technical leadership. Our team of 15 fractional CXOs includes accomplished executives, investors, scientists, and engineers with deep experience in the clean energy sector. By embedding directly into early-stage companies, these professionals play a pivotal role in refining go-to-market strategies, attracting capital, and scaling technologies that advance grid resiliency, electrified transportation, and energy storage.

To learn more about the CXO program, please visit <https://brite.org/cxo-services/>.

39 Startups Founded

20 Startups Exited

\$485M Capital Raised

7 with Investor Experience

35 Board Seats Held





Annual Impact Report

BRITEnetwork

In 2025, BRITE launched a reimagined version of BRITEnetwork, transforming it into an open-access membership platform designed to inform, connect, and equip energy innovators and leaders across the country. At the heart of the new structure are two monthly webinars, open to all members, offering timely insights and direct engagement with national leaders in energy innovation.

The first, **Federal Funding & Policy Insights**, is hosted by BRITE President & CEO Rick Stockburger and Expert-in-Residence David Solan. This series brings in senior guests from the U.S. Department of Energy and other federal agencies to help our growing network navigate the evolving landscape of public funding and national policy. The second, **Executive Education Sessions**, led by our Innovation Services Director Manoj Jhaveri, features expert guests covering critical topics such as market trends, commercialization strategies, and sector-specific innovation.

By expanding access and deepening engagement, BRITE is building a more connected, informed, and prepared community of innovators working to lead the energy economy. The best way to engage in BRITEnetwork is to sign up for our weekly newsletter by visiting www.brite.org/network to never miss an update about upcoming events.



BRITEnites

BRITEnites is BRITE's signature quarterly event series, held in locations across Ohio, bringing together industry leaders, investors, and innovators to drive collaboration and investment in the advanced energy sector.

Each component of BRITEnites is designed to support and accelerate energy innovation by bridging the gap between entrepreneurs, investors, and industry leaders. By facilitating meaningful connections and knowledge-sharing, BRITEnites plays a crucial role in strengthening Ohio's energy ecosystem and fostering the growth of groundbreaking energy solutions

Energy After Hours Happy Hour

A casual networking opportunity designed to foster connections among professionals, startups, and investors in an engaging and dynamic setting.

Startup Pitch Session

A curated showcase featuring three high-potential startups presenting their innovations to an audience of investors, corporate partners, and industry stakeholders. Each startup delivers a concise pitch followed by a Q&A session, ensuring a productive and insightful exchange in a structured one-hour format.

Ecosystem Connect Dinner

An exclusive, invite-only dinner gathering of approximately 30 senior-level executives, policymakers, and key stakeholders. This intimate setting provides a unique opportunity for high-impact networking and strategic discussions on the future of advanced energy.

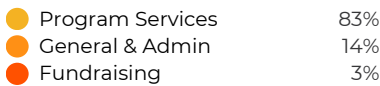
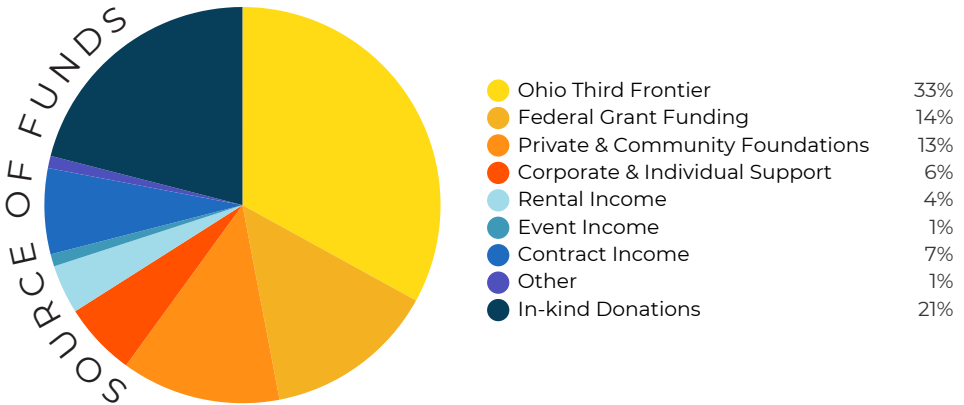


Hosted in
**Cleveland
Columbus
Cincinnati
& More**

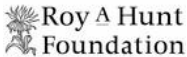
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Financials & Donors



Thank you to our Donors



Power to Hydrogen | Acculon Energy | Landi Industries | Tennessee Technological University | Huntington Bank | Illuminate USA | JobsOhio | KPMG | PNC Foundation | The Thomases Endowment Fund of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation | Zimeno Inc. DBA Monarch Tractor | Synergy Fuels | Banks-Baldwin Foundation | Warren Area Chamber of Commerce | Vertiv | Ohio Arts Council | Enbridge Gas | Raymond John Wean Foundation | Alcon Mechanical | Mosaic | Margaret Bacheler | Green Marbles | Quasar Energy Group LLC | Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council | ms Consultants | Desmone | Melink Solar | Benjamin Family Foundation | Progressive Insurance | McDonald Hopkins LLC | Nexceris | SunWize Power & Battery | ReBuild Manufacturing | Graziani Multimedia



Annual Impact Report

2024

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK THAT BRITE IS
DOING, PLEASE VISIT WWW.BRITE.ORG.

