

The Energy Program for Innovation Clusters (EPIC) Prize supports the nation's most innovative incubators and startups, producing impactful energy innovation clusters across the country. The 2025 program consists of OTC's highly regarded pitch competitions. All previous EPIC incubator and accelerator awardees are eligible to nominate an energy technology startup. Startup finalists are selected to pitch their ideas to a panel of DOE and industry reviewers for the chance to win cash awards at a series of pitch events throughout the year.



EPIC Goals

- Catalyze job creation
- Boost the success rate of startups
- Foster engagement with DOE National Labs
- Spark inter-regional partnerships
- Advance critical technologies
- Enable start-ups to commercialize impactful tech

EPIC Successes



KLAW Industries won first place at an EPIC pitch competition, taking home \$100,000 to help them purchase a new truck and trailer for operations. Today, they have completed over 60 pilot projects and sold close to 50 tons of their Pantheon™ material.



Magnefy won a first-place EPIC prize and is now helping mission-critical facilities avoid outages and maximize efficiency with their AI-powered, high-frequency magnetic sensing platform for real-time predictive maintenance. They've since raised \$1.5M in seed money to continue their impact.



The University of Tennessee's SPARK Innovation Center received a \$300k EPIC award. Within the first two years, SPARK startups have raised over \$34M in follow-on funding and created over 46 jobs across three cohorts.

Currently Accepting Proposals: EPIC Round 4

EPIC Round 4 Overview

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Technology Commercialization has launched the Energy Program for Innovation Clusters (EPIC) Round 4 prize, with the aim of funding Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs) that aid in the development of new business ventures and augment the robust growth of regional energy innovation ecosystems across the United States. Competitors will propose scalable programming to support hard-tech startups and entrepreneurs in their networks.

DOE encourages entrepreneur support organizations (ESOs) to compete in EPIC Round 4, including incubators, accelerators, co-working startup communities, or any other organizations that self-identify as advocates for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Prize Structure & Timeline

[Insert prize timeline graphic]

EPIC Round 4 offers a total prize pool of \$XXX,XXX in cash across two phases.

- **In Phase 1**, teams will design a “Minimum Viable Program” (MVP) for energy entrepreneurs. This scalable program model should address the Prize Program Goal Requirements—listed in the official rules document—and demonstrate that the organization has comprehensive plans, access to the right networks, a strong pipeline of startups, and the skills and expertise to successfully implement their MVP. Up to X winning teams will receive \$X,XXX each in cash and will be eligible to compete in Phase 2.
- **In Phase 2**, winning teams will demonstrate significant progress in implementing their MVP and provide documentation that the program can replicate and scale beyond the prize. At the end of Phase 2, up to X winning teams will receive \$XX,XXX each in cash.

Get Started

Visit the American-Made Network HeroX EPIC Round 4 page to learn more and to submit your proposal. If you want to receive updates on the prize or have any questions, please subscribe by using the contact feature on the HeroX platform, or reach out directly to epicprize@nlr.gov.

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