

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.