



2022

# Annual **REPORT**

BRITE Energy Innovators

*Unleashing the Energy Revolution*

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

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Mr. T once said, “to have a comeback, you have to have a setback.” I don’t think I need to provide any examples of how you may relate to this in recent times. Put simply, we’ve all been through a lot. We’ve learned a lot. We’ve reflected a lot. We’ve acted a lot. We’ve become bolder. We’ve become more resilient.

Our organization started from the excellent intuition of key civic and political leaders in Warren and Northeast Ohio. For many years, we struggled to validate and communicate why an energy technology incubator was relevant in our local community. We started to see a shift with the emergence of Voltage Valley, an initiative to attract top-tier electrification automotive manufacturers and suppliers. Our phones starting ringing with the press of major investments in our backyard such as Foxconn Technology Group and Ultium Cells. The need for new technologies and approaches in energy aligned industries clicked.

Never did we foresee what was next, the life-changing passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal includes policies and funding to strengthen our nation’s resilience to extreme weather and climate change while reducing greenhouse gas emission, building up a clean power grid and much more. What had been a slow drip quickly became a heavy downpour of interest and commitment from our startups and partners in industry, academia, government and venture to best access and leverage this opportunity. I’m both thankful and proud of the team we’ve built to take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity.

This report is but a fraction of the real work taking place to empower founders launching energy technology solutions so that we can create opportunity, good jobs and a resilient economy.

Onward and upward,



Richard Stockburger, President & CEO



**"People First, Mission Always"**



# ABOUT US

We measure our success by our member success, our community support, and our ability to impact Ohio, Appalachia, and beyond. At BRITE, we are not beholden to political parties or prizewinning algorithms; we are beholden to perseverance, innovation, and progress.

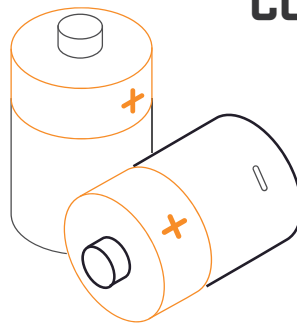
BRITE serves a variety of clients providing solutions to today's challenges and defining tomorrow's opportunities. Our clients work on technologies related to energy storage, grid resiliency, and mobility.

Our mission is to empower founders to launch energy technology solutions.

BRITE is unleashing the energy revolution. BRITE believes anyone, anywhere can be a catalyst for change, that empowering energy tech startups will create opportunity, good jobs and a resilient economy. A non-profit launched in 2011 upon this assertion, the organization hosts signature startup programs and supportive services to enhance energy technology viability and community understanding.

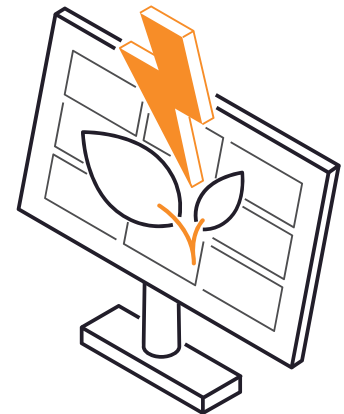
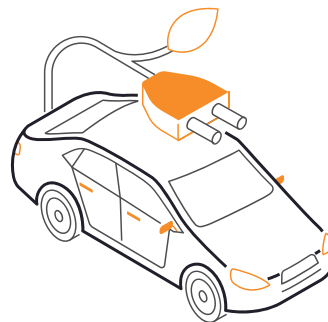
Headquartered in Warren, Ohio, BRITE represents the strength of our industrial past and the promise of a decarbonized future.

## CORE INDUSTRIES



Energy Storage

Grid Resilience



Mobility

# OUR STORY

## 2019

Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center rebrands to BRITE Energy Innovators

## 2022

BRITE launches our signature startup programs, BRITEbase and BRITEelevate

## 2020

With the pandemic, BRITE evolves to a virtual model to address 4X increase in demand for services



## CORE VALUES

### Bold

We do what is necessary for the success of our community.

### Resilient

We have grit and seize every opportunity to grow.

### Inclusive

We actively create an environment for all people of all backgrounds.

### Transparent

We are clear about our expectations, abilities, and impact.

### Empathetic

We acknowledge where people are by listening first, cultivating our curiosity and acting without judgement.





# OUR SERVICES

We offer a range of services to help our clients innovate and grow, from early-stage startups to national thinktanks and corporations.

## Startup Services

Complimentary support designed to help energy technology solutions throughout the development process with expert mentoring and strategy.

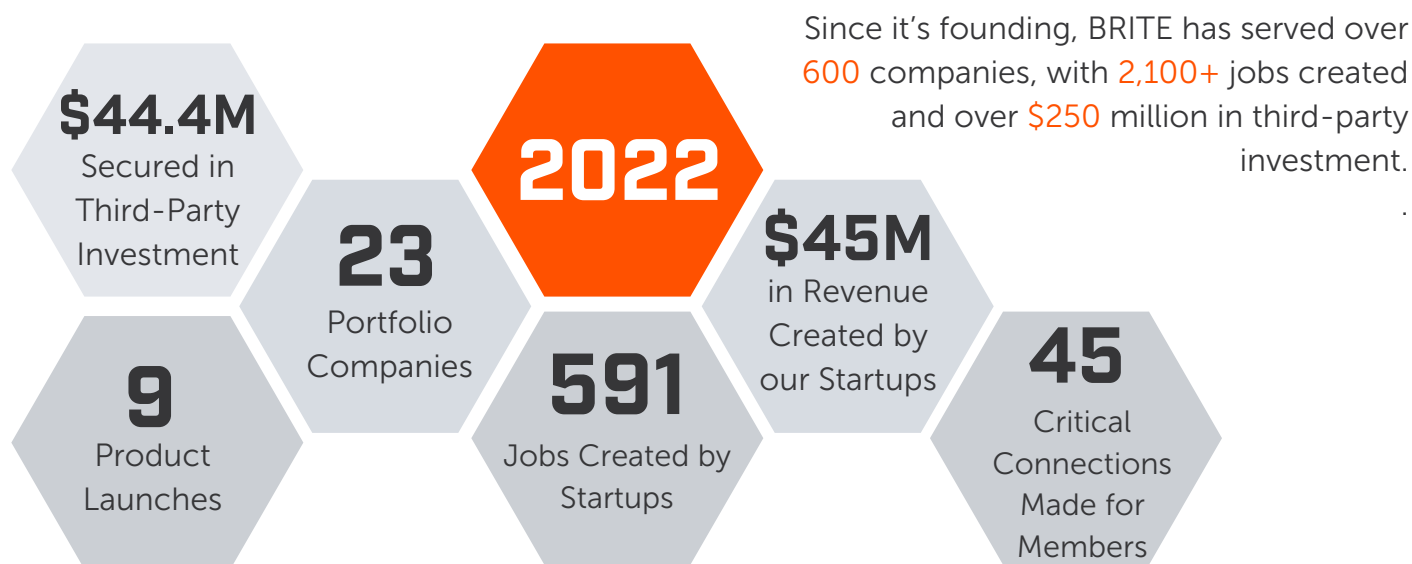
## Innovation Services

Exclusive industry insight and opportunities through BRITEnetwork and tailored consulting services for leveraging emerging technologies with federal funding and strategic partnerships.

## Vital Partner

Specialized equipment and facility for research, testing, development. Community presence for workforce training and economic development.

# OUR IMPACT



# MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

In 2022, BRITE supported **89** startup companies to help them start, scale, and stay in Ohio.

## Power to Hydrogen

Power to Hydrogen ([www.power-h2.com](http://www.power-h2.com)) is a manufacturer of hydrogen generation products and were named the winners of Enel Green Power's Green Hydrogen Challenge. Enel Green Power is the largest installer of renewables outside of China and funded a 10kW pilot installation of Power to Hydrogen's alkaline anion electrolyzer membrane (AEM). This validates low-cost electrolysis for industrial deployments with Enel Green Power in the future.



## Intwine Connect

Intwine Connect (<https://www.intwineconnect.com/>) is a connectivity solution for monitoring business-critical operations. Their monitoring solution is available for a range of applications, but they have been a consistent innovator and integrator for distributed energy resources (DER) for numerous top electric utilities, research institutions, and universities for scalable DER solutions. Intwine had a very successful 2022, with revenues exceeding projections (\$4.6M+), closing on a \$2M investment, and signing a multimillion-dollar partnership with Johnson Controls to become a solution provider for the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) division.



## Li-ion Tamer

Li-ion Tamer (<https://liiontamer.com/>) is a safety solution for lithium-ion batteries. Their line of products has been funded through Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III Small Business Innovation Research Programs (SBIRs) with the US Navy. In 2019 Li-ion Tamer announced a partnership with Honeywell's Building Technologies division to distribute Li-ion Tamer's solution globally. This progressed as Li-ion Tamer developed an electric vehicle (EV) platform for their product and in late 2022 announced a partnership with Honeywell's Safety and Productivity division to distribute their EV solution globally.

# MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## LAND Energy

LAND Energy (<https://landmoto.io/>) is Cleveland based mobility start up who's vision is to allow access to untethered energy and mobility by providing the electrification of mobile solutions for commercial businesses and consumers. After securing their Series A investment, LAND was launched and began delivering their district and district scrambler eMoto models in 2022.

*"The introductions and connections BRITE has made for us...that's been huge" -  
Scott Colosimo, President of LAND Energy*

## Adena Power

Adena (<https://adenapower.com/>) is a solid-state sodium ion battery system company located in Columbus, OH. Adena Power was selected to be a part of the Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI) Incubatenergy program. This program helps facilitate start up companies to execute utility-scale pilot projects and Adena Power's battery systems can help solve long duration energy storage challenges that many utilities are facing today. CEO Rick Stockburger joined Anna Siefken of the Department of Energy Office of Technology Transitions to attend Adena's Open House event.



*Left to Right: Rick Stockburger, Anna Siefken, Kyle Shen (Nexceris), Matthew Seabaugh (Heatpath)*



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# MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## FlexEnergy LLC

FlexEnergy LLC ([www.flexenergyllc.com](http://www.flexenergyllc.com)) is Columbus based startup with a unique flexible lithium-ion battery technology. They're recent BRITEbase graduates and are actively participating in the BRITEelevate program. They're focusing on applying this technology to wearables and understand a critical technological milestone is to demonstrate the ability to safely wash their battery, which they successfully did in late 2022!

## Accelerate Wind

Accelerate Wind ([www.acceleratewind.com](http://www.acceleratewind.com)) leverages the increased air speeds at roof edges of commercial buildings to generate electricity. In 2022 they received a \$250K Innovate Alabama Grant and were also selected to participate in the Amazon Web Services Sustainable Cities Accelerator for Infrastructure.

## Empower Battery Technology

Empower Battery Technology is working to bring the next level of stability into the lithium-ion battery charging process. Their technology, an anode for lithium-ion batteries, enables increased battery life, is more stable during manufacturing, and has improved heat dissipation compared to current competitors. Empower Battery Technology was recently awarded \$3.9M and was one of 12 selected by the US Department of Energy as a part of a \$42 million program to help boost domestic electric vehicle (EV) production and adoption.

## SHARE Mobility

SHARE Mobility (<https://www.sharemobility.com/>) offers the leading mobility-as-a-service platform empowering enterprise companies to seamlessly implement a new transportation program or optimize an existing one. Demand has been increasing as employers deal with a record number of open jobs and employees face rising costs of transportation. In June 2022 SHARE Mobility announced their completion of a \$12M Series A funding round led by Iron Gate Capital and Renewal Funds, Employment Technology Fund, JobsOhio, Seamless Capital, TrendForward Capital and Venn Ventures also participated in the round.



# SIGNATURE STARTUP PROGRAMS

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The launch of our new signature startup programs was a monumental milestone for our company. In 2022, BRITEbase and BRITEelevate hosted over a dozen startup companies.



This intensive twelve-week business bootcamp aims to advance startups towards funding readiness by developing and refining their business roadmaps across six critical areas of strategic development, including the funding playing field and strategies for "market readiness".



For BRITEbase graduates or qualifying members, BRITEelevate is the sharpening stone for funding and strategic readiness. Using hands-on mentoring and customized program and resource support, Elevate closes both the distance and timeline between strategic development and successful industry engagement.

## TESTIMONIALS

***"This was an excellent program and I look forward to a continued relationship and support from BRITE."***

***"As we create a renewable energy manufacturing company in Ohio, this is the perfect resource for us. I'm so glad I participated in BRITEbase and looking forward to continued support. "***

***"The introductions and sessions with industry experts were invaluable. I feel much more prepared for our next steps."***

***"This was a great quality cohort and I really enjoyed it. I am definitely going to go back and listen to all of the recordings again. "***

# INTRODUCING: THE BRITENETWORK

The place for corporations, startups, investors, government, academia, and non-profits to gain curated access to technologies, people, funding opportunities and real-time resources. The BRITEnetwork provides a competitive advantage during the “energy revolution,” the biggest economic transition in history

***"It's been super helpful, and I don't know where I'd get that access without BRITE"***

-Marc Palmer, Founder and CEO of Conductor Solar

BRITEnetwork benefits include exclusive networking, funding announcements, and industry insights. We are the committed circle of communities and businesses that will advance the energy transition and expand Ohio's entrepreneurial footprint while creating jobs and igniting local and regional economies. Within BRITEnetwork, the ecosystem comes together to leverage the collective energy network in one of the fastest mobilizing industries in the world.



# BRITE HIGHLIGHTS

## Sweeney Press Conference

We hosted a press conference to celebrate joining hands with Sweeney Chevrolet Buick GMC, who shares our belief that the work being done in Warren will lead to big things in the electric vehicle industry and help the Mahoning Valley's success. "This partnership represents an optimism and commitment to our shared future in EV leadership in the state of Ohio and in the Valley," said Alexa Sweeney.



Left to Right: Board member Muhammed Ejaz, Chris Allen (Ultium Cells), Alexa Sweeney, Rick Stockburger



## LAND Delivers to BRITE

Managing partner of HD Davis CPA's Tim Petrey got a shocking surprise when his newly ordered e-bike from BRITE member company LAND was hand delivered to him by the company's President, Scott Colosimo. BRITE CEO Rick Stockburger and Andrew Dobson, co-owner of SERVPRO's Warren-based operations, then engaged in a roundtable discussion about the importance of developing the "Voltage Valley."

We were overjoyed to receive a donation of \$15,000 from our friends at SERVPRO to further our mission here in the Valley and beyond. "We love the opportunity to be on the cutting edge," said Jim Standohar, marketing manager for SERVPRO. "This whole EV movement is something we want to be involved in."

## Huntington Bank Event

Late in the year, we graciously accepted a gift of \$10,000 from Huntington Bank. "BRITE is a conduit for leading edge technologies, and we want to do all we can to help startups with their financing needs to foster growth and staying power in our communities," said Sam Huston, community president in Mahoning Valley for Huntington.



Left to Right: Tony Frisone (CZAR Power), Rick Stockburger, Julie Strickland (Huntington), Sam Huston, James Stallsmith (Huntington)



# BRITE HIGHLIGHTS

## Visit with Senator Sherrod Brown

U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown toured the BRITE facility and talked about how the recently passed CHIPS act can benefit Ohio and the Mahoning Valley. CHIP provides over \$800 million to U.S. energy incubators like BRITE, developing new tech that can be built domestically. "This is going to help nurture start-ups like the ones here at BRITE. It's not enough to invent new technologies here – we have to make sure they're commercialized in Ohio, that they grow new industries in Ohio, and that they create jobs in Ohio," said Brown.



*Photo: Senator Brown talks with Scott Colosimo of LAND Energy*

## Release of the Northern Appalachian Energy Storage Roadmap

"With support from entities across Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, BRITE released a study that identifies how Northern Appalachia is positioned for energy storage manufacturing and adoption. "As we're part of national conversations to reshore manufacturing and secure a domestic supply chain, this study confirms how Northern Appalachia not only compliments but is critical for the creation, production and adoption of energy storage technologies," says Chief of Staff Sara Daugherty, "For instance, the study identifies how our region is positioned for the uptick in lithium battery manufacturing for the transportation sector."



## Partnership with YSU for ORNL Project

Through Oak Ridge National Laboratories (ORNL) in partnership with Youngstown State University, BRITE contributed to identifying and defining upcoming workforce needs for energy storage manufacturing, installation and maintenance.

## VIOTI Announcement

BRITE supported the Youngstown Business Incubator in the announcement and launch of the Valley Internet of Things Initiative, or VIOTI. Programming allows for the adoption of smart manufacturing such as Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) and Data-Driven Manufacturing (DDM) by both new and established companies.



# BRITE HIGHLIGHTS

## BRITESide Chats, Pitch Practices, and more

One of our favorite parts of being BRITE is having the opportunity to connect our brilliant startups to industry experts at both virtual and in-person events. In 2022, we hosted 9 educational events with the purpose of bringing together our community of startups to learn from the best of the best, including 4 BRITESide Chats, office hours with NASA Glenn and the Department of Energy.



## Visit from the Taiwanese Delegation

In April, we opened our doors to Taiwan business and government leaders to take a tour of our BRITE Energy labs. When it comes to electric vehicle manufacturing, all eyes, even those from afar, are watching what's happening in Voltage Valley. The visit came just two days after the bipartisan Taiwan Friendship Caucus was announced in Columbus.



## BRITELights

Our monthly BRITELights video series had nearly 13,000 views in 2022. We welcomed special guests from all aspects of the energy support ecosystem, including Neil Kidner of BRITE member company Nexceris, our Expert-in-Residence Frank Bryan, and Youngstown State University's Jennifer Oddo (Pictured). The topics covered over the year were diverse, from the types of high-demand energy jobs poised to power the future to an in-depth guide on reducing your load on the energy grid.

# BRITE HIGHLIGHTS

## Green Energy Machine Visits BRITE

The Green Energy Machine is an educational mobile solar kit for schools and nonprofits to facilitate in the teaching of sustainability, electricity, and more. Each kit creates a tangible learning experience for students with endless applications for all ages. We were gifted our own kit to share with the community for demonstrations and youth programming.

## Partnership with U.S. Research Impact Alliance

USRIA is a recipient of the Energy Program for Innovation Clusters, or EPIC, prize to streamline and integrate development, deployment and commercialization activities associated with technologies resulting from federally funded programs. BRITE assisted USRIA in creating a regional innovation cluster with National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) and other parties to support entrepreneurship training and mentorship.

## Partnership with Mahoning Valley Manufacturing Coalition

Through General Motors reinvestment in the Mahoning Valley, BRITE assisted MVMC in creating a workforce pathway for battery manufacturing. BRITE utilized its national network and partnerships to help MVMC build a model that is being adopted by the State of Ohio and national entities. MVMC supported BRITE in the creation of its own

youth outreach activities, including the development of curriculum for afterschool programming. BRITE participated in numerous local events throughout the year, including Ohio To Work, Manufacturing Day and Silly Science Sunday.



Photo: Beth Barbush (BRITE), Jake Kuss (Shared Power Network)

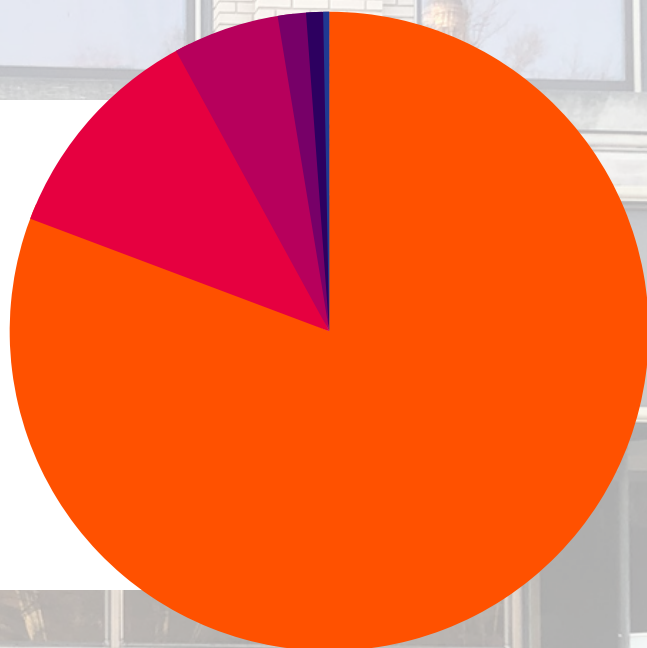




# FINANCIALS

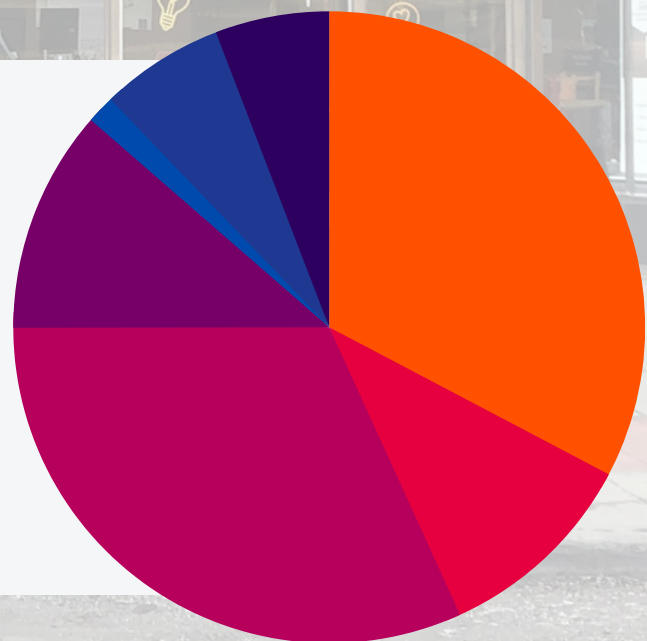
## Income

Donor Income	80.7%
Contract Income	11.3%
Rental Income	5.4%
Event Income	1.4%
Lab Income	0.9%
Other Income	0.3%



## Expenses

Wages	31.4%
Payroll Taxes/Benefits	10.1%
Consulting	30.5%
Office & Occupancy	10.9%
Travel	1.4%
Depreciation	6.1%
Other	9.8%



# THE BRITE TEAM

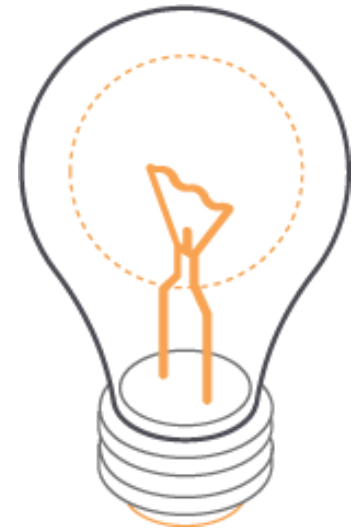
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The thinkers, change-makers,  
and believers behind the scenes.

Frank Abbott, Maintenance Supervisor  
Emily Adamczyk, Marketing Specialist  
Beth Barbush, Office Specialist  
Randy Cole, Expert-in-Residence  
Sara Daugherty, Chief of Staff  
Jamie Donahue, Executive Assistant  
Michael Drenski, Technical Lab Consultant  
Alyssia Fletcher, Administrative Assistant  
Nick Frank, Entrepreneur Services Program Manager  
Deanna Hamilton, Finance Manager  
Lucas King, Startup Experience Specialist  
Ben Lachman, Expert-in-Residence  
Jing Lyon, Entrepreneur Programs Director  
Joe Rohan, Accelerator Program Manager  
Rick Stockburger, President & CEO

## Additionally:

Jennifer Brindisi  
Cole Simon  
Jerry Cordaro  
Britt Corsi  
Lindsay Hayburn  
Joe Paloski  
Rito Santra  
Jared Shein  
Amariana Carmichael  
Bill Whittenberger



## Board of Directors

**Chairperson:** Mr. Mike Hripko  
Emeritus, YSU

**Vice Chairperson:** Mr. Anthony Trevena  
Western Reserve Port Authority

**Treasurer:** Mr. Stan Feret  
Community Leader

Mr. Djifa Amefia  
ClarIT Solutions LLC

Mr. Muhammad Ejaz  
Ejaz Microelectronics LLC

Dr. Albert Green  
AMG Consulting Group

Mr. Patrick Kelly  
FirstEnergy

Mr. Sumit Kovoov  
Reiturn

Mr. Bill Merkel  
USA Firmware

Mr. Jonathan Bridges  
JobsOhio

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## Bronze



## Silver



## Gold



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Parallax Research  
Wright State University  
Appalachian Regional Commission  
Youngstown State University  
Economic Development Administration  
Eastgate Regional Council of Governments


BRITE People  
City of Warren  
Burton D Morgan Foundation  
Huntington Bank Foundation  
Jumpstart, Inc.  
NIDEC  
MAGNET

# CONNECT WITH US

Scan the QR code below to learn even more about BRITE, follow us on social media, or sign up for our monthly BRITElights newsletter.

## CONTACT

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