ARISE
Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies

Smart Grid Deployment Consortium and HILLTOP Platform Expansion

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

GRANTEE
Tennessee Technological University

STATES IMPACTED
Tennessee, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio
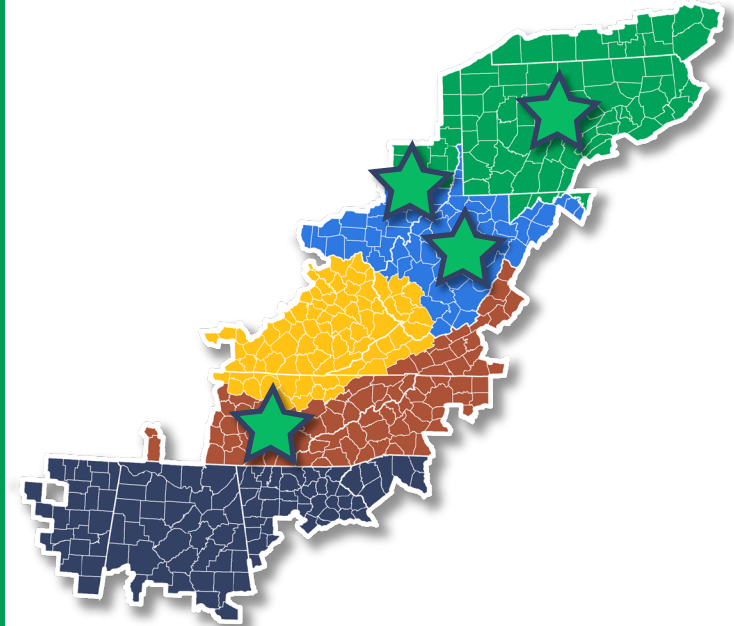
ARC FUNDING
$10,000,000

PARTNERS
West Virginia University, Penn State University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Lab (MIT-LL), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), The Biz Foundry, Knoxville Entrepreneur Center, BRITE Energy Innovators

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE
October 2023

STATES IMPACTED

PROJECT SUMMARY

This project, impacting 191 counties across four states, will help rural electric utilities and energy startups deploy smart grid technologies by providing grid modeling support. Providing grid modeling support will help remove barriers to deploying green, smart grid technologies such as electronic vehicle (EV) charging stations, wind farms, solar photovoltaic arrays, and battery storage. There is a need to support rural electric utility companies as they model when, where, and how to integrate smart grid technologies into their existing electric grids. Tech start-ups can leverage grid modeling services to test innovative hardware and software technologies for scalability and interoperability during product development and launch. Smart grid technologies will also support the growth of the "Battery Belt" in Appalachia and growth of data-driven energy innovation ecosystems in the region.

Tennessee Technological University and partners bring $8,216,312 in matching fund to this project. The project will serve 468 businesses over the course of three years.