



Battery Innovation Center Powers Technology and Collaboration in Radius Region

The Battery Innovation Center (BIC) is an extraordinary facility that contains highly specialized equipment and professional expertise needed to provide the rapid development, testing and commercialization of emerging energy storage systems for commercial and defense organizations. Companies from across the nation who specialize in battery and energy storage technology development are now routinely traveling to the BIC to put their cutting-edge advancements to the test that the exceptional resources of the BIC can carry out in southern Indiana.

The astonishing fact that this highly-used facility sprang into existence in the Radius region is a testament to the unique public-private partnership that was crafted by state and local economic development leaders who worked with world-class universities and commercial enterprises to establish the BIC in 2013.

“We’re proud to have the BIC located here among the many other assets in our tech park,” says John Mensch, chairman of the board of the state-certified WestGate@Crane Technology Park. Mensch, a business leader in Greene County, Indiana, played a role in the County’s decision to provide capital financing that was a key piece in the construction of the Battery Innovation Center.

The BIC provides 36,000 square feet of facilities and a \$15.6 million state-of-the-art energy research lab to develop capabilities needed for next generation energy storage solutions. The capabilities of the BIC are enhanced by the fact that it is located adjacent to Crane Navy Base, a large federal research laboratory where over 1,000 engineers and researchers with advanced degrees engage in cutting edge development of new technologies.

Confirmation of the BIC’s unique abilities came in 2015, when the BIC announced a partnership with energy testing and certification heavy hitter, UL (Underwriters Laboratories); as a result of the partnership, UL now locates the company’s North America testing and validation of large batteries and energy storage systems at the BIC.

Radius Indiana Senior Advisor Becky Skillman, the former Lieutenant Governor of the state, praised the collaboration between the two parties.

“The new partnership with Underwriters Laboratory furthers the goal of the Battery Innovation Center becoming a catalyst for growth for this entire region of our state,” said Skillman. “We look forward to the economic benefits and opportunities this new relationship will afford to the business community and to our workforce.”

BIC President David Roberts says this deal will do great things beyond the Battery Innovation Center.

“The UL partnership positions the BIC as a national leader in a key technology area with massive growth potential. This is a great win for the region and the State, and also underscores how local and State support are creating real results in rural, technology-based economic development. In particular, this win is a direct result of sponsorship from Radius Indiana to attend a trade conference where we were able to connect with UL.”

Business Development Director for UL’s Energy and Power Technologies Division Laith Amin says the BIC’s state-of-the-art facility was a major selling point.

“What we really were seeking to do by coming together was to combine a facility where you could do everything, you could take the development and testing of product all the way through from prototype stage, right through the full suite of tests, irrespective of the scale, and be able to end up at the end of an initiative with a product that is fully certified by UL according to these new and class-leading standards in one facility.”

Amin says, in addition to leadership demonstrated by the BIC, the facility itself has a number of strong points. Those include state-of-the-art equipment, the layout of the facility, and, key to the relationship, the ability to access the US Department of Defense’s National Center of Excellence for Battery Technology at the Crane naval base.

All parties involved agree that the new relationship with UL now sets the BIC and Indiana apart and creates one of the most advanced sites for battery innovation in the nation.