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**For Immediate Release**

## SRNS Challenges Local Students during “Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day”

*Middle school girls learn that being a scientist or engineer is challenging, rewarding and even fun*

AIKEN, S.C. – (March 26, 2010) Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS), in partnership with the Society of Women Engineering and The Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, recently extended invitations to middle schools throughout the greater Aiken-Augusta area to select young women to participate in this year’s “Introduce A Girl To Engineering Day.”

Held today at the Ruth Patrick Science and Education Center, on the University of South Carolina Aiken campus, each participating school selected and sent three female students to this event who have shown an interest in a career involving engineering.



*Two Aiken-Augusta area middle school students compete to prove whose design provides the best performance during this year’s Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day.*

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According to SRNS Manager of Talent Development and Education Outreach Programs Candice Dermody, the Introduce a Girl to Engineering program is designed to emphasize the National Engineers Week message of encouraging students to consider careers in engineering, science and technology.

“Our program typically consists of a series of hands-on activities and intriguing demonstrations that prove to these young ladies that being a scientist or engineer can be interesting and even, at times, exciting,” said Dermody. “These activities also show how natural problem-solving abilities form the basis for many engineering skills.”

During the day-long event, the participants also had an opportunity to interact with women currently working in various fields of science, technology and engineering. In addition, each received a special gift for attending.

The event is part of a greater effort designed to help area students take small steps toward easing the approaching shortage of workers skilled in engineering disciplines.

The United States Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office provides a variety of science and literacy outreach programs at the Savannah River Site by funding and coordinating the efforts of several organizations.

The primary goals of these outreach programs are to enhance interest in science, mathematics, engineering and technology and to support improvements in education in the Central Savannah River Area by using the unique resources available at the Site.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor Partnership comprised of Fluor, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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