AUGUST 2025

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

SRNS Today

Joining a 75-year legacy

Nearly 40 interns ‘sign’ on to Team SRNS

SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

NNSA Senior Advisor visits Site • Weapon Intern Program • Intern Showcase and Farewell event

Jeff Griffin
SRNS President and CEO

On the cover

SRNS Network Operations Engineer Tellajah Chalk and Data Integration Developers Damari Mazyck and Cristian Carroz sign their full-service offers with managers Henry Longley and Tee Paschall.

Welcome

to the August 2025 edition of

SRNS Today

The summer months are almost over, and it's been a busy time for SRNS.

In August, we said goodbye to our summer interns. This year, we received an impressive 4,500 applications and selected 173 interns, thanks to our strong internship program. One of our standout events was the SRNS signing day, where nearly 40 summer interns received full-time positions, solidifying their roles in our 75-year legacy of innovation and commitment to national security and environmental stewardship.

Also, this month, our SRTE team celebrated a significant milestone by completing the final two replacements of gloveboxes and oxygen monitor systems in the H Area New Manufacturing Facility. This achievement marks the culmination of over a decade of work, with 81% of project milestones completed on or ahead of schedule and a cost savings of $1.2 million.

SRNS had the pleasure of hosting Sean McDonald, the NNSA Senior Advisor for the Integrated Plutonium Program. His visit was a tremendous success, highlighting the critical importance of U.S. pit production and emphasizing the need to accelerate our efforts. He also reaffirmed that our team's dedication and hard work are vital to the nation's missions.

Furthermore, we recently hosted participants from the Weapon Intern Program, an 11-month residential educational program by Sandia National Laboratories. They received a behind-the-scenes look at SRTE and the SRPPF.

Enjoy this month's edition of SRNS Today.

Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS℠

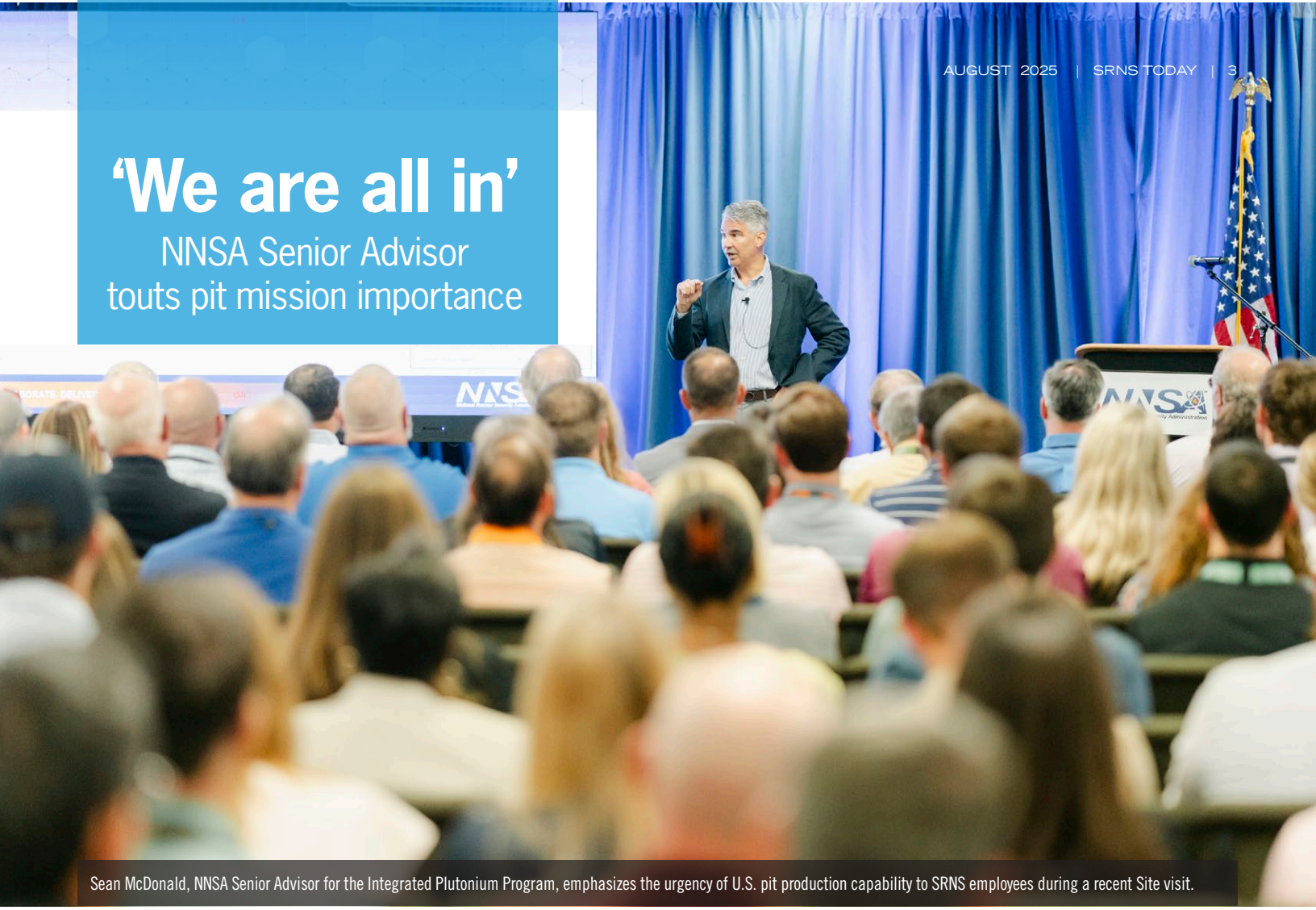
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our employees and other stakeholders of the company's operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com

COMMON ACRONYMS
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS) • Department of Energy (DOE)
National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) • Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF)
Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) • Central Savannah River Area (CSRA)
science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)

‘We are all in’

NNSA Senior Advisor touts pit mission importance



Sean McDonald, NNSA Senior Advisor for the Integrated Plutonium Program, emphasizes the urgency of U.S. pit production capability to SRNS employees during a recent Site visit.

“I SEE A LOT of progress going on,” remarked Sean McDonald, NNSA Senior Advisor for the Integrated Plutonium Program, after recently touring both the SRPPF and its High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center. “I’m really ecstatic with what I saw today, in terms of progress.”

McDonald visited the Site last month to assess the latest SRPPF and Pit Production Operations and Programs developments. Having spent decades of his career at Los Alamos National Laboratory, and on assignments to the Department of Defense, NNSA, and the House Armed Services Committee, McDonald is no stranger to the evolution of U.S. national defense programs. During his time visiting SRS, he provided a special presentation for employees on the “History of Pit Production and the Integrated Plutonium Program,” highlighting progression of the nation’s plutonium pit production and sharing a of mix of what he described as “positive takeaways and cautionary tales.”

Referring to SRPPF’s role in these critical defense missions, McDonald shared, “These are not easy projects to do on time and on budget,” noting that the geopolitical environment often changes faster than new capacity can be added. “SRPPF is our solution for a combined 80-plus pits per year. We are all in on this plan, and we just need to get it done as expeditiously as possible.”

SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer Jim Dawkins agreed, telling the audience, “It’s fundamental for you to understand what we’re embarking upon, transitioning to an enduring mission site, and the importance of having a ‘yes, if’ mentality rather than a ‘no, because’ one. If we do that, we can accelerate production.”

> *“SRPPF is our solution for a combined 80-plus pits per year. We are all in on this plan, and we just need to get it done as expeditiously as possible.”*
>
> **Sean McDonald,**
> **NNSA Senior Advisor**
> **for the Integrated Plutonium Program**

McDonald continued to emphasize the urgency of U.S. pit production capability and stressed that SRS was a key element of the pit production strategy, due to the Site’s production culture and longstanding tritium mission. McDonald further stated, “The sense of urgency is profoundly back, and I attribute that to the leadership here and the leadership at Los Alamos. We’re really starting to find our groove. I want people to understand that we have got to continue that urgency and turbocharge it. We have a geopolitical threat that we need to meet, and you guys are crucial to helping meet that need.”

NSE partnerships drive mission excellence

As the Site continues to mature its enduring NNSA missions, SRNS is expanding collaborative partnerships with other Labs, Plants and Sites (LPS) within the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE).

An SRNS Executive Leadership Team, including Jeff Griffin, President and Chief Executive Officer; Jim Dawkins, Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer; Freddie Grimm, Senior Vice President of Strategic Planning and Integration; and Erika Baeza-Wisdom, Deputy Vice President NNSA Pit Production Operations and Programs, recently conducted a comprehensive visit to the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. With the addition of Nick Miller, SRNS Senior Vice President NNSA Tritium Operations and Programs, the team also visited the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas.

"The purpose of both visits was to gain a better understanding of the Y-12 and Pantex organizational structures and cultures, tour their facilities and observe firsthand the collaborative efforts of their teams," said Griffin. "SRNS is looking to grow our relationships across the NSE, forge new partnerships and examine opportunities for strategic alignment to ensure we're effectively working with our NNSA counterparts to drive mission acceleration."

These efforts are part of a broader SRNS strategic benchmarking initiative within the NSE, designed to gather critical insights that will support the Site's ongoing transition from Environmental Management (EM) to NNSA defense program missions. The SRNS Executive Leadership Team is committed to learning from other NSE sites to optimize business operations, enhance organizational rhythm and refine SRS practices.

After the Site transitioned from EM to NNSA landlordship on Oct. 1, 2024, organizational adjustments were essential to ensure alignment with the customer. In response, SRNS reinforced its commitment to extend the Site's capabilities by establishing the Program Management Office (PMO) on August 1, 2025, under Grimm's leadership. Creation of the PMO advances strategic planning efforts, streamlines budgetary processes and bolster's the Site's capacity to accurately convey strategic infrastructure plans and key defense programmatic elements in alignment with the NSE.

Each collaboration and exchange signifies SRNS' dedication to advancing its strategic objectives and ensuring seamless integration within the NSE. Baeza-Wisdom said an additional benefit of growing these partnerships involves leveraging best practices and lessons learned from other sites across a wide range of areas, some of which include competency development, risk mitigation and overall production expertise.

> *"When it comes to weapons production, no one site can do it alone."*
>
> **Erika Baeza-Wisdom,**
> **Deputy Vice President**
> **NNSA Pit Production Operations and Programs**

"Benchmarking other NNSA sites allows SRNS to gain valuable insight into how we can leverage our similarities with other LPS to model ourselves as a future-state production site," she remarked. "When it comes to weapons production, no one site can do it alone. We are working toward a common goal of nuclear deterrence. Through these collaborative efforts, we are establishing strong mission connections, creating teaming relationships and exchanging information and lessons learned. These partnerships will be critical as we work toward standing up the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility and achieving our first production unit."

Following the visits, Grimm emphasized the importance of cementing SRS' role as an NNSA site and maintaining a sense of urgency, noting the valuable benefits gained from observing the Y-12 and Pantex organizational structures and integrated programs and practices.

"These visits underscored the importance of operating with a centralized PMO and ensuring SRNS speaks with one voice for NNSA missions," said Grimm. "We remain steadfast in our commitment to learn and integrate effective practices from across the NSE. Establishing closer ties with Y-12 and Pantex has been invaluable, providing crucial insights into their organizational structure and operational cadence. We must continue to adopt and integrate these best practices to meet current as well as future production demands and seamlessly align with the NSE framework."

Recognizing Knowledge Transfer Program completion

Eddie Brown and Adam Schnell, Pit Production Operations and Programs, were recently recognized as the first SRNS employees to complete a four-year Knowledge Transfer Program (KTP) assignment with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The KTP involves a two-year assignment at LANL, followed by an additional two years at SRS. Launched in August 2020, the KTP is the first official joint training effort between SRS and LANL, the two sites selected by the NNSA to produce plutonium pits at the quantities required for sustainable nuclear deterrence.

Pit Production Operations and Programs employees Eddie Brown and Adam Schnell were recently recognized for completing a four-year Knowledge Transfer Program assignment with Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Weapon Intern Program participants visit

Weapon Intern Program (WIP) participants from the current class of 2025 recently received a behind-the-scenes look at SRS. One component of the program involves site visits, allowing interns a greater understanding and appreciation of how each site contributes to all aspects of the nuclear deterrent.

During the SRS visit, participants toured SRTE and the Savannah River National Laboratory. The visit also included a Site driving tour with an overview of SRPPF and the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center, including an augmented reality demo of the facility. The current WIP class includes SRNS employee Garrett Harper, SRPPF Design Authority Engineer.

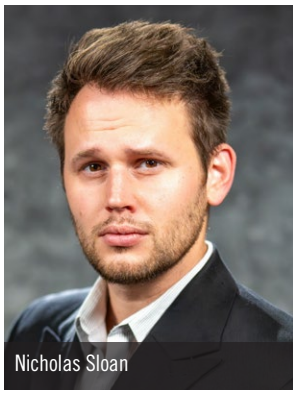
WIP selects SRNS employee

An SRNS employee was recently selected to participate in the Weapon Intern Program (WIP), an 11-month residential educational program hosted by Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) Weapon Quality Engineer Nicholas Sloan became the latest participant from SRS selected for the prestigious technical training program, whose mission is to prepare future generations of experts in nuclear weapons stewardship.

The only program of its kind within the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE), WIP offers participants in-depth, Enterprise-wide exposure to all aspects of the nuclear deterrent. Over the past 25 years, WIP has graduated over 500 participants from multiple organizations, including DOE, Department of Defense (DOD) and NNSA. Only 24 participants are accepted into the program each year. Of those accepted, 12 are external to Sandia, allowing for one or two SRS candidates to participate each year.

The program includes extensive classroom instruction from subject matter experts on a variety of nuclear weapon topics. Classroom instruction is reinforced with site visits across the NSE, a variety of DOD facilities and historical sites. During their time in the program, WIP participants also complete class projects, such as weapon system program reviews, and a final capstone project, in which they are embedded in a working group. Those returning to SRS provide insight into nuclear weapon production and leverage established connections to support SRPPF and SRTE missions.


Nicholas Sloan

"The Weapon Intern Program represents the culmination of decades of information that will benefit and accelerate the mission here at SRPPF while providing the opportunity to forge lasting relationships throughout the NSE," said Sloan. "Successfully completing this program will allow me to then return to PPOP and provide support to the team."

Sloan will begin the program September 15, and said he is looking forward to gaining a greater understanding of and appreciation for the NSE.

"Acceptance into the Weapon Intern Program is a prestigious honor that is given to a select few SRS candidates each year," said Lisa Lee, PPOP Mission Development Manager, who coordinates the SRPPF application and selection processes and also helps plan the annual WIP SRS site visit. "WIP candidates exemplify a high degree of professional dedication and personal commitment to the SRTE and SRPPF missions at SRS that support our nation's nuclear deterrence."

SRTE completes glovebox oxygen monitor upgrades

The SRNS SRTE team celebrated a significant milestone by successfully completing the final two replacements of the Glovebox (GB) Oxygen (O_2) Monitor Systems in one of its four processing facilities—H Area New Manufacturing (HANM). This achievement marks the culmination of an extensive portfolio of 33 recapitalization projects, initiated over a decade ago.

The original O_2 monitors, which had been in operation since the 1990s, were identified as nearing the end of their operational life. Recognizing the critical need for advanced monitoring systems to maintain the highest standards of safety, SRTE embarked on a strategic timeline to methodically replace all monitors.

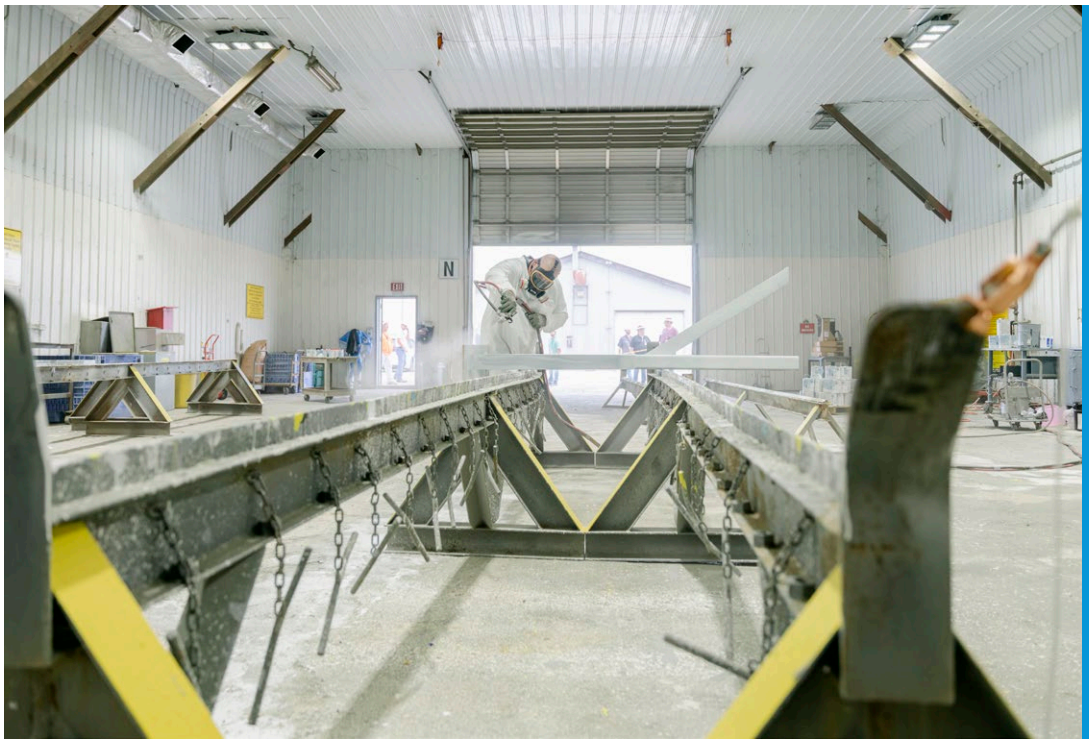
"The original monitors began failing unpredictably, presented maintenance challenges due to their location inside the gloveboxes and were obsolete," said SRTE Area Operations Manager Kevin Cross. "The replacement portfolio provided improved maintainability, a non-consumable sensing element and updated alarm circuitry—improving overall reliability."

Cross further remarked that the successful replacement of these 33 monitors prevents unnecessary disruption to gas processes, thereby ensuring the fulfillment of SRTE's Department of Defense and Surveillance commitments.

The GB O_2 Monitors, credited in SRTE's Safety Basis, are a significant safety measure designed to continuously monitor oxygen levels within the glovebox environment to prevent fires and explosions that could potentially release tritium.

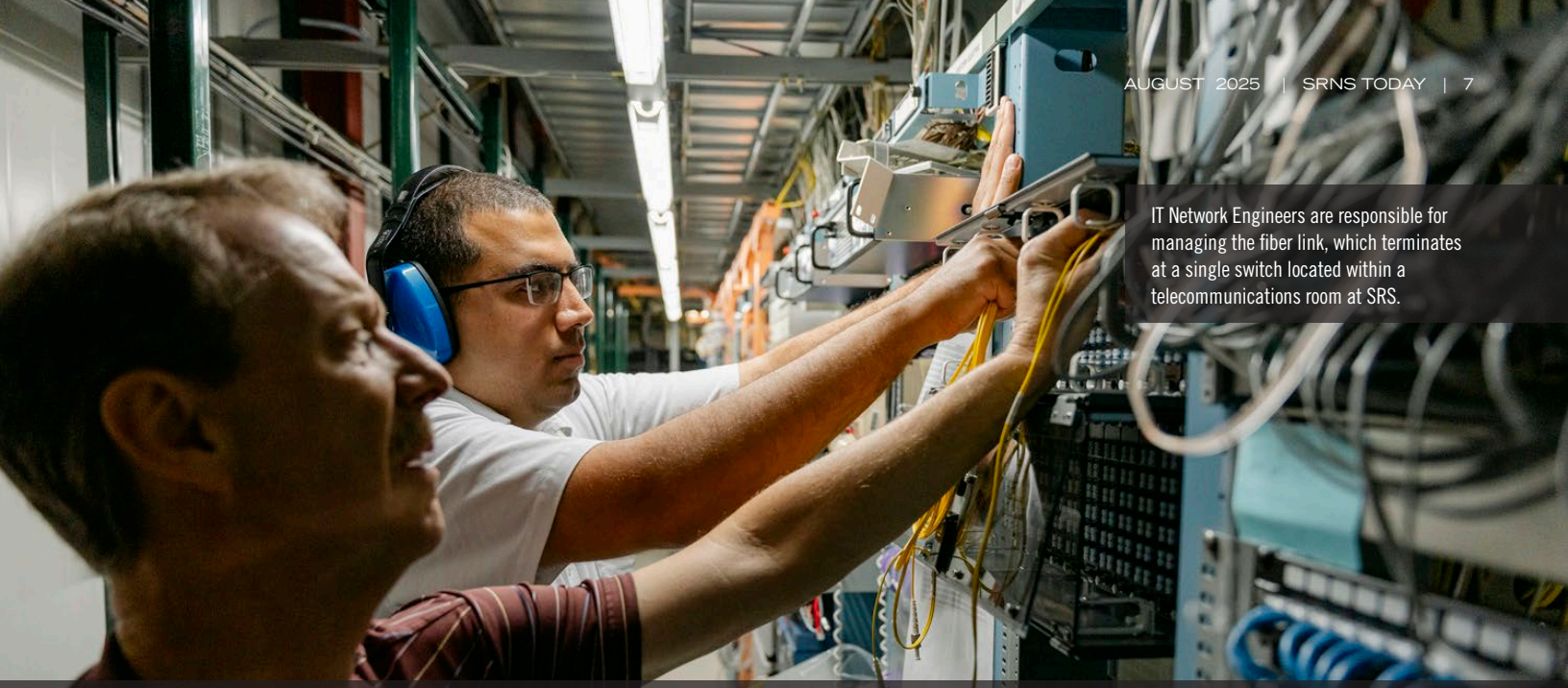
SRTE Instrumentation and Controls Engineer Carson Blake and Tritium Maintenance Organization Chadwick Mattox perform functional checks on a newly installed Glovebox Oxygen Monitor.

This project highlights SRNS' ongoing dedication to advancing safety protocols and sustaining a culture of continuous improvement. By investing in cutting-edge technology and completing these critical upgrades, SRNS reaffirms its commitment to protecting its workforce and the environment, while fulfilling the demands of the U.S. nuclear stockpile.



Paint Barn back in business

After over a year of upgrades, the SRS Paint Barn is back in business! The Paint Barn is used to spray paint and coat items in specialty paint.



IT Network Engineers are responsible for managing the fiber link, which terminates at a single switch located within a telecommunications room at SRS.

Fiber upgrade powers enduring missions

SRNS Information Technology (IT) has completed a major fiber infrastructure upgrade, installing over 40,000 linear feet of new fiber optic cabling to create a dedicated, high-capacity circuit between the Site's Central Data Center and the SRPFF.

The new link, consisting of 288 individual fiber strands, significantly increases bandwidth, speed, and redundancy—enabling the secure, high-speed transmission of mission-critical data to support digital transformation, modern manufacturing, artificial intelligence initiatives, and a growing workforce of more than 1,500 users supporting Pit Production Operations and Program (PPOP). Digital Transformation will enable accelerated product development, integration, qualification, manufacturing and surveillance.

"This expansion brings PPOP one step closer to executing our mission," said Erika Baeza-Wisdom, SRNS Deputy Vice President, Pit Production Operations and Programs. "The IT infrastructure necessary for meeting future production demands is significant, requiring successful collaboration and integration across all areas of the Site. Achievement of this critical piece of infrastructure ahead of schedule demonstrates how SRS is ensuring we deliver national security for the United States."

Initially installed in the mid 1990s, SRS' underground fiber optics needed a major upgrade. Today, as technology has evolved, so has the demand for data, data storage and data consumption.

Tim Arnold, SRNS Associate Chief Information Officer, IT Financial Management, said, "This is a foundational step in modernizing our network infrastructure. When we first installed fiber in 1995, it was designed for telephone and low-speed network use. The landscape has changed dramatically since then. Now, we must support terabytes of data moving at high speeds."

The demand is already here: SRPPF is expected to generate 6-10 terabytes per work package, with an estimated 75-100 packages per year. This scale of data movement requires next-generation infrastructure to ensure operational readiness and data integrity at every level of the enterprise.

"Modernizing our fiber infrastructure is a crucial milestone in our journey towards digital engineering and modern manufacturing," said Bruce Page, SRNS Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer. "This new, high-capacity link ensures we are prepared to support the complex demands of advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, and a growing workforce, all while securing our national security objectives. It's a testament to our commitment to innovation, efficiency, and future growth."

Construction began in May 2023 and was completed two years later, ahead of the originally targeted 2027 delivery date. Despite significant challenges, the project was delivered on time and within budget—thanks to the planning, execution, and dedication of the SRNS IT and Infrastructure teams. SRNS will continue making strategic investments in its network infrastructure to ensure all post-construction missions are supported.

"Advance planning and collaboration across multiple organizations supporting the SRPPF project was instrumental in delivering this necessary upgrade that will be crucial for facility operations once construction is complete," said Daniel Atkins, SRNS Deputy Vice President, Director of Project Delivery for SRPPF. "The increased data requirements needed to support the SRPPF pit production mission were recognized in early planning, and the project has pushed to ensure this expanded fiber infrastructure is available."

The dedicated circuit link includes 40,000 linear feet of fiber.

Interns answer the call

SRNS 'Signing Day' brings 38 new hires

NEARLY 40 SRNS SUMMER INTERNS received full-service job offers during the annual 'Signing Day' event, solidifying their place within a workforce known for its 75-year legacy of innovation in nuclear nonproliferation, national security and environmental stewardship. Concluding the 12-week program, 38 interns signed on to full-service opportunities, and 25 others converted to apprenticeships, on August 4.

The SRNS Internship Program provides opportunities for students from two-year technical colleges and four-year universities, up to the doctoral level, to gain hands-on learning experiences related to their fields of study. This year, SRNS received nearly 4,500 applications, and from that impressive pool, 173 were selected.

During his opening remarks, Jim Dawkins, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, stated, "You've seen firsthand how SRNS' missions are essential to our nation's safety and strength. Your role in advancing deterrence through new weapons, production capabilities and strategies is crucial to our success. As you sign your offer today, remember that you're now part of something bigger than yourself. Ask questions, show up early and do what needs to be done to support the mission."

Jim Dawkins, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, shares opening remarks during the 'Signing Day' event.

SRNS Chemical Engineer Nicholas Parker, Process Control Engineer Rachel Wood and Software Engineer Patrick Watkins sign their full-service offers with managers Steven Mentrup, Patricia Ard, Jeremy Thompson and David Tamburello.

Sean Alford, SRNS Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, also addressed the interns, saying, "You deserve to be here. Be proud of this achievement. You tell our story best. When you go back to campus, spread the word about your valuable experiences and know that you are essential to our progress. There's a lot to be done at the Savannah River Site, and we need great young minds like you to accomplish it."

Alford highlighted the positive impact of the program, referencing a key project co-led by Mia Thompson, a senior studying computer science at Augusta University. As a Data Analyst Intern for Information Technology Data Management and Analytics, Thompson developed a predictive analysis algorithm to combat attrition at SRNS.

"One of my key responsibilities was to gather data from various departments and transform it into understandable formats and dashboards," said Thompson. "By collecting historical data on employees' demographics when they left the company, we're able to calibrate the model to understand factors that might influence this decision. As I look forward to graduating in December and returning to the Site, I'm filled with gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead."

Bryan Ortner, SRNS Senior Vice President, Workforce Services and Talent Management, emphasized the significance of the day, adding, "Someone in this room today marks our 100th intern to commit to SRNS in three years. From a hiring standpoint, we are closing major gaps and positively impacting our future workforce. To the interns that received offers today, you have gone through a rigorous assessment process, and there's a reason you've been picked to join our team."

SRNS plans to hire over 2,000 new employees in the next five years to support NNSA missions. In the competitive STEM field, staying ahead of the curve is essential for attracting talented individuals to meet SRNS' long-term goals. The spark for STEM careers is ignited as early as kindergarten and is nurtured through internships, 29 registered apprenticeship occupations and university partnerships. SRNS interns engage in real-world challenges, protecting critical assets while showcasing the true value of their academic skills.

Andrew Guerry from the University of South Carolina spent his summer focused on contract close-out with the SRNS Contract Administration team, offered advice to future interns. "Fully immerse yourself in the experience. Go to everything, contribute to your team, and build connections with everyone. It sounds simple, but it's not. It's easy to say you don't want to go to an event because you're tired. Stay active and engaged, and this unique experience will be the best one yet."

The risks of consistent inconsistency

Lithium-ion battery training outlines hazards

Personnel from the SRS Fire Department, Environmental Compliance, Nuclear Criticality and Engineering organizations recently came together for an Environmental Protection Agency Lithium-Ion (Li-ion) Battery safety training to understand what hazards these batteries bring to the Site.

This training covered subjects such as Li-ion battery basics and failures, firefighting operations and tactics, site cleanup and disposal. These topics were brought to the approximate 100 participants through presentations, hands-on examples, videos and animations. Presenters at the event explained the risks Li-ion batteries could pose on the job as "consistently inconsistent" and explained what personnel needed to do to identify, minimize and mitigate the variety of these dangers.

Li-ion batteries can be found everywhere—in cell phones or laptops, for example—and many Site employees use them daily. Even electric vehicles contain Li-ion batteries. These batteries are dense with energy and are typically stable in their charge/recharge cycles. Risk and dangers arise when considering battery failures. These failures may lead to a thermal runaway, an uncontrollable, self-heating state where the batteries ignite and may continue to burn even when submerged under water. Organizers want first responders and device users to be able to spot and handle the possibility of battery failure and subsequent fires.

Craig Burgess, Qualified Fire Protection Engineer stated, "Education is the key. Many people do not understand the potential hazards present and the signs to look for. A swollen Li-ion battery has failed, and the swelling is due to toxic and flammable gasses building up within the battery. If those gases find an ignition source, they will ignite and possibly explode."

On-site, Li-ion battery fires are not a common occurrence. Training such as this ensures that employees are prepared to handle these potential incidents and continue the Site's commitment to safety.

SRNS recognized for workplace mental health

SRNS has been awarded the 2025 Platinum Level Bell Seal for Workplace Mental Health. This is the highest level of recognition awarded by Mental Health America. The award recognizes SRNS' approach in policies and practices to create a mentally healthy workplace for employees on the national level.

"Winning the Bell Seal for Workplace Mental Health is a powerful affirmation of our commitment to creating a culture where mental wellness is prioritized, supported and fully integrated into how we care for our employees," said Cheryl Cummings, Employee Wellness Services (EWS) Manager.

SRNS has developed a unified team in EWS to operate across SRS and assist employees in receiving various methods of support for their well-being. The Employee Assistance Program is one service that helps employees understand and utilize their wellness benefits. These benefits include a variety of programs such as: counseling services, mental health support, wellness programs and resources for physical, emotional and psychological well-being.

Continuous program evaluation is used to ensure employees have access to these comprehensive benefit plans.

"Earning the Bell Seal award highlights the work that the EWS team has accomplished in keeping staff at the Site well-informed and taken care of," said Bryan Ortner, Senior Vice President Workforce Services and Talent Management. "From participating in our Employee Assistance Program and even joining our fitness challenges, I encourage any and all SRNS employees to take advantage of the wellness resources offered here at SRNS."

Team develops tool for MTC operations

SRNS employees in the Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) organization are using innovative solutions in the Manufacturing Technology Center (MTC) to champion NNSA's manufacturing modernization efforts and accelerate the timeline for developing operator competency.

The MTC is a facility used, in part, for competency development by evaluating personnel in equipment use, procedures, software systems, maintenance and operations. This is accomplished by developing various machining tool operations that manufacture various objects. These skills learned in the MTC are essential to the success of future SRS missions.

The facility officially opened in August 2024, and according to MTC Operations Manager Andrew Walczak, who assumed his duties in December of that year, the need for a tracking system, known in the manufacturing world as a Manufacturing Execution System (MES), quickly became apparent. While the original timeline had an MES scheduled for July 2026, Walczak assembled a team to develop an interim system to maximize MTC operations efficiency.

The MES works in conjunction with a Manufacturing Resource Planner (MRP) to plan and execute work in the facility. The MRP tracks data such as machine and materials availability. Once MTC personnel plan the work, then the process transitions to the MES, which routes a specific piece of equipment or material throughout the process to machine the end product. The MES tracks the end product through the manufacturing process, along with a traveler—a document that accompanies the product throughout its production process, providing a detailed record of the work performed at each stage.

Ben Myers, Subassembly Specialist, uses the MES while operating equipment in the MTC.

The Manufacturing Execution System (MES) team, including Machining Specialist Zane Vanover; Manufacturing Design Engineer Anna Beason; and Manufacturing Technology Center (MTC) Production Manager Adam Thomas use the interim MES to manufacture end caps in the MTC.

"This level of tracking allows our MTC personnel to document critical steps of the manufacturing process and provides information such as which employees have been in contact with certain parts, what programs were used to manufacture these parts, and at what point in the process and by whom were the parts inspected. It also allows for enhanced troubleshooting," said Walczak.

The team launched an interim MES in June 2025, a full year ahead of the scheduled MES launch. This early implementation has allowed MTC Operations personnel to develop strategic requirements for the MES team. These requirements are providing focus areas for the MES team, who are developing a full strategic, integrated MES deployment in the MTC as early as mid-September 2025.

According to Matt Arnold, PPOP Deputy Production Operations Director, "The team's innovative approach and attention to detail have resulted in a tool that is not only user friendly but also remarkably efficient. The tracking system will have a significant positive impact on our workflow in the MTC, allowing us to streamline processes, enhance collaboration and maintain better oversight of our production."

Scott Pardue, PPOP Production Modernization Lead, said the MES also illustrates SRNS' commitment to adopting NNSA's digital thread and modern nuclear security initiatives, in preparation for Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility and High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center start-up.

"Implementing the MES, the MRP and other essential digital systems provides a way to synchronize activities with the Enterprise, but we can't do that without clear requirements at the local level. What Andrew and his team provided is the process which illustrates the requirements that our local systems involved in the digital thread will support."

"By embracing NNSA's modern manufacturing initiatives, starting in the MTC, SRNS is leading the way in areas such as cost savings, increased efficiency and collaboration," said Walczak. "We're still refining our processes as we go, but we're miles ahead of where we were a year ago and are continuing to learn as we go."

SRS welcomes new Nuclear Operators

SRS is bolstering its workforce with a new cohort of skilled Nuclear Operators, thanks to recent graduates from Augusta Technical College's (ATC) Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship Program. This program is a robust partnership with the SRS Apprenticeship School, aimed at creating workforce pipelines in various disciplines at SRS through collaboration with local technical colleges.

The graduation ceremony marked the fourth cohort from ATC, celebrating 18 new graduates: Justin Attwood, Nicholas Billings, Kenneth Bowman, Horace Brunson, Christopher Coleman, Chase Crapse, Beaumont Davenport, James Gillespie, Joshua Gordon, Sydnee Hammonds, Kristian Kennedy, Stephen Kennedy, Gunnary Kern, Chad Priester, Dalton Sawyer, George Trull, Johnny Wooden, and Andrew Zercher. These graduates are now transitioning to full-time employment with SRNS.

The eight-month program involved intensive classroom instruction at ATC paired with practical on-site training at SRS. After completing the program, 13 graduates will join the K Area Complex (KAC) team, contributing to downblending missions for Plutonium Disposition Operations and Programs (PDOP). Four graduates will be part of the Environmental Management Operations team, and one will work at SRPPF. This cohort represents the largest group of graduates for KAC to date.

Lee Sims, Acting Senior Vice President, PDOP, attended the ceremony in support of KAC graduates. "It is an honor to welcome this talented group of graduates into our operations," he said. "Their dedication to our mission and their unwavering commitment to safety will help drive our success for years to come. We look forward to watching their careers grow as they contribute to the critical missions performed at SRS."

In addition to Augusta Technical College, the SRS Apprenticeship School's community partners now include Aiken Technical College, Denmark Technical College, and economic development agencies such as the Lower Savannah Council of Governments and the SRS Community Reuse Organization.

Laying the foundation: SRNS supports Habitat for Humanity

SRNS stood alongside Aiken County Habitat for Humanity (ACHFH) at a ribbon cutting ceremony, celebrating the completion of a brand new home for a deserving family.

SRNS contributed $10,000 towards the construction, reinforcing the company's dedication to community service and impactful partnerships that align with its core values.

This moment marked more than the unveiling of House #138. Charles Allen, the new home owner, persevered through a two-year application and approval process. He completed 275 hours of "sweat equity," significantly exceeding the 100-hour minimum required. These hours represent time and labor contributed by future homeowners, in lieu of or in addition to financial contributions. It's a tangible investment in the homeownership journey, symbolizing dedication, pride and a sense of partnership.

SRNS employee and ACHFH Board Member Shawna Lloyd, homeowner Charles Allen and SRNS Senior Vice President, Infrastructure Modernization and Sustainment and Deputy Nuclear Operations Officer and Acting Senior Vice President and Nuclear Operations Officer Lee Schifer celebrate the completion of a brand new home.

‘This is where I hope to be one day’

SRNS interns showcase next-gen talent at farewell event

With a buzz of innovation, curiosity and ambition, SRNS wrapped up its 12-week Internship Program on July 23, with its annual “Intern Showcase and Farewell,” an event that celebrated the achievement and progress of interns this summer.

The showcase spotlighted the experiences of 30 of the 173 interns who were selected from a pool of over 4,400 applicants, a testament to the program’s growing impact.

“This is a day for some of our interns to show the value they’ve added to our company—from solving real engineering problems to improving safety systems and supporting cybersecurity efforts,” said Angela Martin, SRNS Talent Acquisition Manager. “These are not just student projects; these are meaningful contributions to our critical missions supporting the DOE and NNSA.”

Kamdyn Neale, a sophomore majoring in Chemistry and Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Carolina Aiken, designed a complete fire protection barrier, her first full-cycle engineering project for the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Project.

“Since SRNS helps fund my education through a Family Scholarship and VPPPA (Voluntary Protection Programs Participants’ Association) Scholarship, I wanted to see the mission from the inside,” said Neale. “One of the most rewarding experiences was designing a barrier to prevent the accumulation of combustible materials around a ventilation duct. I learned about every step of the design engineering process in real-time, including planning, drafting, modeling, procurement and revisions. I hope to return next summer to continue enhancing my education.”

Maliyah Taylor, a senior studying Cybersecurity at South Carolina State University, interned with the Defense Programs Computing Assurance Group with a focus on operational technology security.

“This is where I hope to be one day,” said Taylor. “My first summer interning with SRNS was about building connections. This year, I was deep into documentation for Conduct of Operations and assisting in network mapping for unauthorized authority boundaries. I had no idea the cyber field had so many branches. This experience showed me what I’m capable of and what’s possible in this career. The exposure is a huge bonus, and supporting a 75-year legacy makes the opportunity that much better.”

Alyssa Bagby, a recent graduate from the University of South Carolina with a degree in Mathematics, has found her experience as a Data Integration Intern for the Project Delivery Organization to be incredibly rewarding.

“I had the opportunity to create Power BI (Business Intelligence) dashboards from various data sets, making complex information more accessible and understandable,” said Bagby. “One of the most challenging yet fascinating projects was developing a large JavaScript code to transfer data from one source to another, which deepened my understanding of programming. Overall, this has been a tremendous experience that has solidified my passion for blending mathematics with computer development.”

SRNS Information Technology interns Sarai Sanford, Destiny Robinson and Ashleigh Fair attend the Intern Showcase and Farewell.

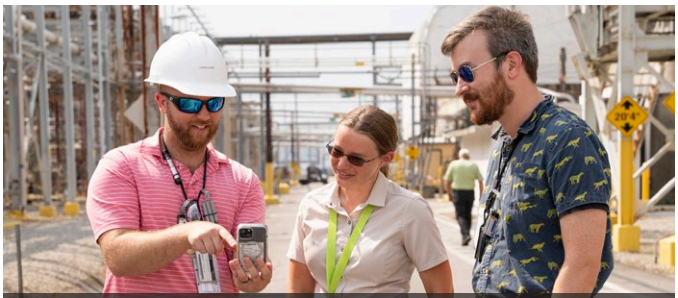
The SRNS Internship Program is part of a broader workforce strategy that includes the SRS Apprenticeship School, university partnerships and local outreach. These initiatives create pipelines to bridge classroom learning with real-world experiences.

“Our interns are not just observing from the sidelines; they’re participating in mission-critical tasks in engineering, cybersecurity, business services and environmental science, among others,” said Bryan Ortner, SRNS Senior Vice President of Workforce Services and Talent Management. “Our hiring initiatives aim to build tomorrow’s workforce today by getting an early start on critical hiring curves. We will need to lean on hundreds of new hires—these interns included—to modernize the Site’s infrastructure and support its critical national security missions.”

Martin continued, “We are truly seeing an influx of entry-level individuals coming to work for SRNS straight out of college, and we can, in part, thank the numerous pipelines that build these connections. The spark for STEM careers is ignited as early as kindergarten and is gradually strengthened through our internships, apprenticeships and university partnerships. This program specifically creates such a unique mentor-intern relationship that I believe will bring these students back for years to come.”

An August 4 event celebrated 38 interns receiving full-service job offers, joining a workforce with a 75-year legacy of innovation in nuclear nonproliferation, national security and environmental stewardship. Additionally, 22 interns are transitioning to SRNS apprenticeships. SRNS is preparing for a dramatic workforce expansion, with more than 2,000 new hires anticipated in the next five years. Students interested in applying for the fiscal year 2026 SRNS Internship Program can go to savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com and click on “Careers” then “Opportunities for Students.”

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS



Griffin Bethle, SRNS Mechanical Engineer Lead; Olivia Ruszczyk, SRNS Process Support Intern; and Cody Fee, SRNS Environmental Management Operations Senior Program Planner, perform a walkdown in H Area.

OLIVIA RUSZCZYK, a senior mechanical engineering student at New Mexico State University, has spent this summer inspecting steam systems in the Site's H Canyon, the only operating, production-scale, radiologically shielded chemical separations facility in the United States.

After graduation, Ruszczyk will return to SRNS as one of 38 interns to secure a full-time position. Additionally, 25 others will transition into apprenticeship roles.

Environmental Management Operations

Olivia Ruszyzcyk

"This is just one example of the vast experiences available when interning at the Site's unique facilities," said Cody Fee, SRNS Environmental Management Operations (EMO) Senior Program Planner. "Olivia brings valuable mechanical engineering and computer-assisted design perspectives to the team, and those insights have provided complementary benefits to our group this summer."

The 12-week internship program—which began in 2009 to build a pipeline of future leaders in national defense, environmental stewardship and nuclear nonproliferation—enables participants to join the Site's 75-year legacy of service, innovation and national security.

For Ruszczyk, every day of the internship was different. Her tasks included creating 3D models, automating spreadsheets, shadowing, training and completing hands-on assignments.

"When I applied for this position, I thought, 'What a cool opportunity to expand my skillset,'" said Ruszczyk. "I was excited for the chance to work at a nuclear facility and learn more about processing fuel after its useful lifecycle. The radiological training allowed me to do something I had imagined myself doing in high school—entering contaminated and radioactive areas. I've gained some great connections and troubleshooting skills from this internship that I know will help me in the future."

"Ruszczyk and other interns are the operators, radiation protection inspectors, engineers and other team members of the future," said Janice Lawson, EMO Senior Vice President. "Their experience will be invaluable to ensuring H Canyon can support national security and environmental cleanup missions well into the future."

JADA FLEMING, a rising senior healthcare administration student at Francis Marion University, received invaluable real-world experience from SRNS. Fleming, who spent her second summer as a Fire Protection Coordinator intern within the SRS Non-Nuclear Maintenance Organization, has learned about various life safety systems to ensure the safety of SRS employees and facilities.

Fire Protection Coordinator

Jada Fleming

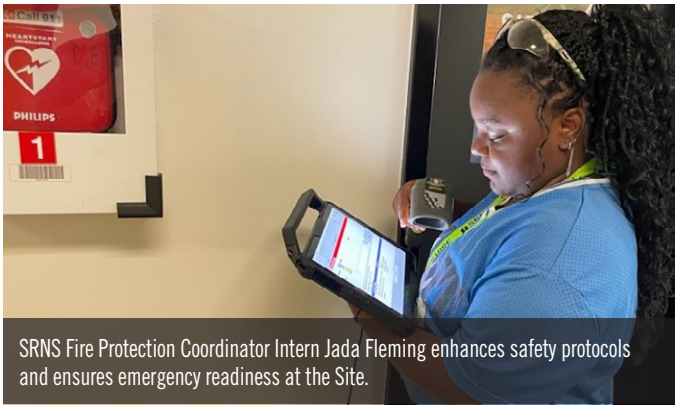
Fleming's proactive approach led her to conduct a comprehensive inventory of all Automated External Defibrillator (AED) equipment across Site Services facilities. AEDs are essential portable devices that can restart the heart during cardiac arrest. Her meticulous work ensures accounting for all AED units and components including pads and batteries, and that they are compliant with expiration dates.

"Jada systematically identified each AED station, verified the presence and condition of the devices, and recorded the expiration dates of consumable components," said Cheryl Parrow, SRNS Fire Protection Coordinator Manager. "Her proactive efforts support our safety and compliance protocols, reduces risk, and promotes a culture of preparedness."

"My daily responsibilities include providing routine support, shadowing training sessions and performing monthly life safety inspections," said Fleming. "Additionally, I practiced filling out inspection sheets, observed a training class to deepen my understanding of the Site's fire alarms and sprinkler systems, and demonstrated proper procedures on a Fire Panel Simulator."

SRNS Fire Protection Coordinators play a vital role in daily operations by overseeing life safety systems, conducting regular inspections, ensuring compliance with safety regulations, identifying potential fire hazards and maintaining emergency response procedures.

"We proudly uphold the distinguished safety values established at SRS in the early 1950s," said Lee Schifer, SRNS Infrastructure Modernization and Sustainment Senior Vice President and Acting Nuclear Operations Officer. "Our employees are our most vital asset, and we are unwavering in our commitment to provide a safe and health-conscious working environment for all."



SRNS Fire Protection Coordinator Intern Jada Fleming enhances safety protocols and ensures emergency readiness at the Site.

INTERNS

Within the SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) organization, one group is looking to stay ahead of the curve by staffing the next generation of SRS defense program missions.

Meaningful early student engagement, both on- and off-site, has become a cornerstone of the Pit Production Laboratories (PPL) approach. Over the last several months, the group has collaborated with universities across the country, while supporting additional university visits to present future Site missions. This summer, PPOP hosted 16 interns, seven of whom worked in PPL's Material Characterization (MC) Lab.

According to James Maner, MC Lab Manager, "Working with these talented students not only helps them excel in their project efforts but also drives a deeper interest in pursuing careers in the field, all while fostering a relationship with SRNS."

Maner and other PPL subject matter experts have developed relationships with several students, six of whom have either already accepted or will soon accept full-time SRNS positions. Four of these individuals come from the successful summer interns pool, including:

Pit Production Operations and Programs

Rachel Walden
Ya'Donnis Hardaway
Jasmine Henderson
Carter Padgett

• Rachel Walden – Recent University of South Carolina Aerospace Engineering graduate, whose projects involved ion mill polishing/etching studies for high atomic number and high-density metal systems.

• Ya'Donnis Hardaway – Recent Allen University Mathematics graduate, whose projects developed enhanced scanning electron microscope techniques while employing generative learning models.

• Jasmine Henderson – Upcoming South Carolina State University Nuclear Engineering graduate, who performed valuable evaluations of nano-indentation methods for etched samples.

• Carter Padgett – Upcoming University of South Carolina Mechanical Engineering graduate, who employed metallographic characterization techniques to explore the effects of final polishing levels on nano-indentation results.

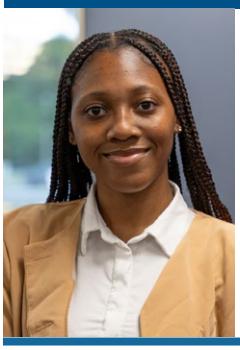
"PPL engagements are emphasizing meaningful projects which help in developing each student's strengths, while providing them with a sense of the mission," said Floyd Stanley, PPL Analytical Chemistry Lab Manager. "Students are encouraged to think creatively, ask questions and experiment in partnership with their mentor and team."

By investing in young talent, PPL is not only expanding existing staffing pipelines but also filling available positions with proven candidates. On average, onboarding an intern saves SRNS more than $22,500 versus traditional hiring methods.

"This engagement strategy will be a valuable tool as PPOP mission efforts accelerate, and we prepare to staff SRPPF and other supporting facilities," said Maner. "These students are the future of pit production at SRS."

Mental Health and Wellness

Brianna Spann



"What I love most is the sense of community at SRNS. Everyone is friendly and maintains a positive attitude. This experience is boosting my confidence and helping me determine if this is the right path for me. I've already had the opportunity to explore psychological factors in the workplace and dive into important issues like bullying and mental health."

Operations Engineering

Mason Crenshaw

"The Site is a fantastic place to work, with friendly faces all around. This internship is offering me valuable hands-on experience with electrical parts and replacements, teaching me how to effectively repair them. It's been incredibly educational, significantly expanding my knowledge of commercial-grade dedication processes. I'm learning to ensure that each part meets our required codes and standards."

SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

The following employees were highlighted as part of the SRNS Feature Friday series on social media.

Lydia Crawford Boynton
Operations Security Program Manager

Wes Ivie
Project Delivery Organization (PDO) Project Manager

Danielle Robertson
PDO Training Manager

Rusty Peel
PDO Deputy Director and Project Delivery Services Manager

James Manor
Manager of the Material Characterization Lab in PPOP

SRNS

Developing innovative approaches to deliver on our environmental commitments and nuclear materials challenges

Supplying products and services necessary to maintain the nation's nuclear deterrent

Securing nuclear materials to prevent unwanted proliferation

Transforming nuclear materials into assets and stable wasteforms

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