

● AUGUST 2024

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today



Making the cut

Machining Training Center officially opens



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

Major equipment replacement • NNSA recognition • SRPPF job fair • Work-based learning



Dennis Carr
SRNS President and CEO

On the cover

Dennis Carr offers opening remarks at the MTC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, held on August 13.

Welcome

to the August 2024 edition of

SRNS Today

Every day, SRNS employees demonstrate what it means to be part of a company that values innovation, resilience and a commitment to excellence. Whether it's overcoming challenges or seizing new opportunities, our team operates with a spirit that is truly inspiring. This drive not only helps us achieve our objectives but also strengthens our reputation with the community.

SRNS kicked off August with the United Way Campaign. Over the next several months, we will collaborate with other Site contractors to continue the tradition of supporting United Way agencies with volunteer and donation efforts.

The Machining Training Center achieved an operational milestone that will be a key component to teaching critical skills and developing competency in various machining tool operations for SRS training. These critical skills will be used in a variety of facilities on-site, including National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) missions. Partnering with Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), we have also made advancements in processing non-aluminum spent nuclear fuel (NASNF) as part of the Accelerated Basin De-inventory (ABD) mission.

Additionally, SRNS' Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects (EC&ACP) group reached a major milestone in groundwater remediation saving millions of dollars compared to traditional technologies that are not as sustainable, passive or cost effective.

SRNS is committed to fostering new ideas, supporting the community and helping to make the world safer. Please enjoy this month's edition of SRNS Today.



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.

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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)
Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) • science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)

Weapon Intern Program participants visit

Participants of the Weapon Intern Program (WIP), an 11-month residential educational program hosted by Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, recently received a behind-the-scenes look at SRS.

Unique to the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE), this program offers in-depth technical training, including extensive classroom instruction from subject matter experts on a variety of nuclear weapon topics and Site visits across the NSE. Only 24 participants from the DOE, Department of Defense and NNSA are accepted into the prestigious program each year.

“WIP is a prestigious internship opportunity that bolsters professional development within the Nuclear Security Enterprise,” said Lisa Lee, Pit Production Operations Development Manager, SRNS. “WIP has graduated over 500 interns over the past 25 years from multiple organizations within the NSE; many have gone on to become leaders in their fields.”

Site visits are intended to reinforce classroom instruction, allowing interns a greater understanding and appreciation of how each site contributes to all aspects of the nuclear deterrent.

During their visit to SRS, participants toured the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) and SRPPF, both under the direction of NNSA.

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“WIP is a prestigious internship opportunity that bolsters professional development within the Nuclear Security Enterprise.”

Lisa Lee, Pit Production Operations Development Manager

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SRTE is the only facility in the nation capable of preparing tritium for the nuclear weapons stockpile. SRPPF is part of NNSA’s two-site strategy between SRS and Los Alamos National Laboratory to produce no fewer than 80 war reserve plutonium pits per year to meet national security requirements. The two-site approach will provide an effective, responsive and resilient nuclear weapons infrastructure with the flexibility to adapt to shifting requirements and counter future threats.

The visit also included a Site driving tour and a walking tour of the Savannah River National Laboratory. The current WIP class includes SRNS employees Quentin Price and Keith Abrahamson.



Participants of the Sandia National Laboratories Weapon Intern Program recently visited SRPPF and Savannah River Tritium Enterprise at the Site.

Major milestone in groundwater cleanup

SRNS has injected more than 100 million gallons of artesian well water, clean groundwater from deep underground, to clean up shallow groundwater underneath 33 acres of a former coal storage yard and associated runoff basin in the Site's D Area. According to Ashley Shull, Senior Scientist for the project, "100 million gallons is nine times more water than contained in the Georgia Aquarium."

Over 60 years of power plant operation, which generated acidic materials and metals associated with coal, has made an impact on the groundwater in D Area. The coal-powered plant, which began operations in 1952, produced electricity for D Area and other parts of SRS until 2012. Even though the coal was removed in 2012-2013, decades of rainwater passing through the coal on the ground left the soils underneath acidic. Metals leached from the coal and natural soil minerals, causing shallow groundwater contamination. It is common in the United States for contamination such as this to exist where coal was used for power production.

SRNS developed a unique solution, taking advantage of the existing conditions of the groundwater and the natural flow of the two nearby artesian wells, which offer a groundwater remedy that does not involve electricity or pumps.

The project was constructed and is operated by SRNS' Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects (EC&ACP) group. This unique groundwater remediation system is saving millions of dollars compared to traditional technologies that are not as sustainable, passive or cost effective.

Working with regulators from the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (formerly the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EC&ACP began injecting the artesian well water to neutralize the groundwater in March 2022.

While this passive technology project is adjusting the balance of the groundwater below the coal storage and runoff basin areas, it will take time to see the groundwater restored to pristine conditions. SRS tracks the cleanup regularly by monitoring the groundwater surrounding the treatment system.

Rasheed Muwakkil, Senior Project Engineer, stated, "I would like to thank the team for all their hard work, constant communication with the DOE and regulators to gain the support needed to help SRNS reach this major milestone in groundwater remediation. This is truly a great and historic accomplishment to be proud of."

Coordination, teamwork leads to major equipment replacement



The new condenser ready for installation at the H Canyon chemical separations facility at SRS.

After over six months of research, troubleshooting and coordination, SRNS employees recently completed the replacement of a piece of equipment essential for operations in the H Canyon chemical separations capable facility.

The General Purpose Evaporator (GPE) helps concentrate low-level radioactive wastes from various sources in the canyon, including sump material, leaks and rainwater.

"In November 2023, the GPE lost vacuum, making it inoperable," said Regina Marquez, the GPE Design Authority Engineer. "Finding the cause of vacuum loss involved testing several pieces of equipment, tanks and hundreds of feet of piping."

The GPE is original to H Canyon. Due to the size and number of potential points of failure in the approximately 75-year-old massive system, a calculated method for troubleshooting was necessary.

H Canyon worked with employees of Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC), the Site's liquid waste contractor, to ensure the Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF) could evaporate the unprocessed GPE material for H Canyon temporarily. ETF treats low-level radioactive wastewater and generally receives waste from the GPE that, during its normal operations, has already been through one evaporation process. Since the ETF also has evaporators, the facility personnel changed some processing parameters to evaporate the waste in the GPE's stead.

The GPE's vacuum issue was determined to be a tube failure in the condenser, requiring a condenser replacement.

"We discovered we already had a spare condenser that was an exact match to the model we were replacing in the no-longer-used F Canyon chemical separations facility," said Marquez.

Replacing the 10,000-pound condenser, which sits in a contaminated area, was no small task. Workers detached overhead piping, cooling water lines and asbestos-containing gaskets to remove the old condenser, which was then lifted from the evaporator system by the largest crane on Site and prepared for disposal. The new condenser was set in place using the same crane, with maintenance mechanics and crane operators working in tandem to ensure the job was performed safely and successfully.

"This equipment replacement is a testament to how SRNS employees come together to accomplish even the most difficult tasks," said Dennis Carr. "Congratulations to the team for a job accomplished safely."



Sustainable technologies provide cost-effective cleanup

The soil vapor extraction unit is utilized to remove the contaminant mass from the soil and prevent further impacts to groundwater.

SRNS Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects (EC&ACP) successfully completed active soil cleanup of the A Area Burning Rubble Pits and Miscellaneous Chemical Basin/ Metals Burning Pit Operable Unit (ABRP/MCB/MBP OU). These pits/trenches were utilized from 1951 to 1973 to burn and bury waste accumulated from A Area, leaving behind chlorinated solvents, which contaminated the surrounding soil and groundwater.

To clean up the contaminated soil and groundwater, remedial actions identified by the Core Team – consisting of members of the United States Department of Energy, United States Environmental Protection Agency and South Carolina Department of Environmental Services – were put in place by EC&ACP.

A vegetative soil cover was placed over the areas to reduce precipitation from moving contamination deeper into the subsurface. The process of soil vapor extraction (SVE) was then utilized in two phases to remove the contaminant mass from the soil and prevent further impacts to groundwater. Phase one utilized active SVE, which uses a high-energy vacuum unit to remove contaminants. During this process, wells deep underground are connected to an SVE machine at the surface, which applies a vacuum to the wells and extracts vapors containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The vapors are treated and then released into the atmosphere where they typically vaporize into the air. Phase two transitions to passive SVE, which utilizes natural resources, such as pumps powered by solar panels, to continue removing contamination.

“The phased SVE approach optimizes the removal of contamination from the subsurface while reducing cost for operations and maintenance,” said Joao Cardoso-Neto, Project Task Team Lead. “During active SVE operation, Operations and Maintenance direct cost averaged approximately \$150,000 per year, which was reduced to approximately \$60,000 per year during low energy and passive SVE operation.”

Sustainable green technologies such as solar-powered SVE units, also known as MicroBlowers™, are an example of passive cleanup. MicroBlowers™ are designed to generate a vacuum that exhausts contaminants from designated wells. Each unit requires only 20 to 40 watts of power, easily produced by a small solar panel. BaroBalls™ are another passive SVE technology utilized at the Site that makes it possible to pump contaminants from the subsurface by harnessing natural changes in barometric pressure.

Cumulatively, these technologies are proving not only to be a cost-efficient means of reducing risk to human health and the environment, but also are shortening the time needed for Site cleanup. From 2001 to 2017, active SVE systems at the ABRP/MCB/MBP OU removed over 300 pounds of chlorinated solvents, while the MicroBlowers™ and BaroBalls™ have removed approximately 150 pounds of chlorinated solvents from 2004 through 2023.

Declining contaminant concentrations indicate the SVE system is effectively meeting clean-up objectives. “With the MicroBlowers™ and BaroBalls™ getting the job done, the active SVE unit is no longer needed and can be permanently removed from service,” says Eric Schiefer, EC&ACP Engineer on the ABRP/MCB/MBP OU project team.

The active SVE system at ABRP/MCB/MBP OU was permanently shut down in 2018 and dismantled and removed from the Site in spring 2024. Passive SVE continues to operate; however, based on diminishing contaminant removal rates, the project team conducted a series of soil samples at the ABRP and MCB subunits. Sampling was performed to evaluate the effectiveness of the low energy and passive SVE units and to determine if clean-up goals have been achieved. Results from the soil sampling should be able to provide evidence to the Core Team that the low-energy and passive SVE system has achieved all clean-up goals and can also be permanently shut down.

Partnering to dissolve non-aluminum SNF

A successful collaboration between SRNS and the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) is advancing progress toward processing non-aluminum spent nuclear fuel (NASNF) at SRS as part of the Accelerated Basin De-inventory (ABD) mission.

Spent nuclear fuel (SNF) stored in L Basin is either covered, or clad, in aluminum or a combination of zirconium and stainless-steel, commonly referred to as NASNF.

To process all remaining SNF in L Basin, the goal of the ABD mission, the collaborative team created the first set of NASNF dissolution flowsheets, which serve as recipes for processing the atypical fuel elements. The flowsheets specify things such as chemical amounts and how the material flows through the process.

“Having this first set of plans for processing a portion of the NASNF is a huge accomplishment, taking several years of technology development at SRNL,” said James Therrell, SRNS Nuclear Materials Program Manager.

Therrell noted that almost 400 NASNF bundles need to be processed for permanent disposal in the coming years. The makeup of those bundles varies in content, size and composition, making some of the fuel more challenging to dissolve.

“An electrolytic dissolver will process the first set of NASNF. While the aluminum-clad spent nuclear fuel can be chemically dissolved, a relatively easy process involving heating nitric acid, the zirconium-and-stainless-steel-clad fuel must be electrolytically dissolved, adding electricity to the nitric acid dissolution process,” Therrell said.

SRNL performed experiments to overcome challenges for that work, and SRNS developed strategies to prepare the fuel for use in the dissolver.

“SRNL spent years evaluating the challenges of processing NASNF,” said Tam Truong, SRNL researcher. “We have conducted experiments and leveraged processing knowledge and experience to develop the dissolution parameters for the first group of NASNF. As the process can generate insoluble or undissolved material, we have demonstrated a full-scale jet cleanout system to remove the undissolved material. The ongoing collaboration strengthens our processing capabilities.”



A mock-up of the Dissolver Solids Removal System in the Savannah River National Laboratory



SRNS Site Services clears a fallen tree out of an SRS roadway during Hurricane Debby.

Site Services defends against severe storm

As Hurricane Debby approached the South Carolina coast, SRNS Site Services mobilized its resources and implemented comprehensive preparations to ensure the safety and well-being of employees and operations at SRS.

In anticipation of the storm, Site Services collaborated with the Savannah River National Laboratory Atmospheric Technologies Group and SRS Emergency Services to monitor potential impacts. The hurricane reached Florida as a Category 1 before weakening to a tropical storm — leaving the possibility for downed trees, utility poles and standing water on roadways.

In preparation for the storm, Site Services Roads & Grounds, Heavy Equipment, and Excavation & Rigging groups established roles and responsibilities. An on-call list was created, and work schedules were altered as needed to ensure adequate staffing. Areas that were prone to flooding were checked, drains cleaned and ditch lines opened. Lakes were monitored to ensure they were within established safe levels.

“We followed the Severe Weather Procedure, staging equipment around the Site for quick response,” said Joe Solesby, SRNS Logistics Manager, Site Services. “Prepped sandbags were loaded and palletized to be delivered to SRS customers who may be impacted by heavy rain and flooding.”

On August 6, between 9-10 p.m., heavy rain and wind began to impact SRS. Calls for assistance were prioritized, and teams were dispatched to address storm-related issues.

“In total, more than 1,500 sandbags were delivered to facilities around the Site and 56 downed trees were removed from our roadways,” said Randy Keenan, SRNS Director of Site Infrastructure. “Each group communicated effectively and did an outstanding job of keeping all roadways clear of debris and safe for travel. We remain committed to the safety of our employees and the integrity of SRS operations.”

Two SRS teams win NNSA recognition

Two SRS teams were recently honored with NNSA Office of Infrastructure Excellence Awards.

Fourteen members of these teams came from SRNS, along with five members of the NNSA's Savannah River Field Office.

The NNSA Office of Infrastructure Excellence Awards program recognizes teams who performed beyond expectations to build coalitions to achieve mission success; lead change by anticipating challenges and creating new, scalable solutions; and deliver timely, meaningful results.

Surplus Plutonium Disposition Project



The SRNS Surplus Plutonium Disposition Project obtained approval to implement their proposed plan to advance material procurements with extensive lead times. This scope includes procurement of items needed in the first six months of construction and items with lead times greater than 20 weeks, up to 78 weeks.

“Beginning the procurement process for extensive lead time materials ensures schedule adherence and helps alleviate potential issues of acquiring like materials in the future with other NNSA projects,” said SRNS Project Director Michael Basham.

NNSA Savannah River Field Office Manager (FOM) Michael Mikolanis presents the NA-90 award to the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Baseline Change Proposal and Safety Review Letter Implementation Team. Back row: Michael Basham, SRNS; Tim Spieker, SRNS; Mike Dansevics, SRNS; Jim Barber, SRNS; Sam Formby, SRNS; and Dennis Carr. Front row: Daniel Atkins, SRNS; Katie Wilkes, NNSA; Gwen Correro, SRNS; Yadira Bonilla-Cuevas, NNSA; and NNSA Deputy FOM Jeff Allison.

Glovebox and Module Stripper Blower Repairs Team



The Glovebox and Module Stripper Blower Repairs Team repaired glovebox and module stripper blowers in a safe and efficient manner. These blowers are imperative for the Tritium Extraction Facility's operation and required rebuilds to ensure continued production and operation.

Both rebuilds required Open Glovebox Maintenance, which presents radiological hazards, necessitating the use of radiological controls. The team worked under a tight schedule, requiring coordination from many organizations.

The two module stripper blowers were scheduled for completion in two months but were finished in one week, while the three glovebox stripper blowers were scheduled for 10 weeks and completed in four. These blowers also required unforeseen and immediate motor re-wiring due to damage from extensive rebuilds in the past.

“This team is recognized for development and safe execution of a plan to repair mission essential equipment,” said SRNS Senior Vice President, NNSA Tritium Operations and Programs J.C. Epting. “This team did a tremendous job overcoming various challenges to complete repairs well ahead of schedule, ensuring our ability to meet mission requirements.”

Mikolanis presents the NA-90 award to the Glovebox and Module Stripper Blower Repairs Team. Back row: TEF Work Integration Manager Brandon Beckner, who accepted the award on behalf of the previous team lead, SRNS; Orry Grubbs, SRNS; William Rourk, SRNS; Bryan Randall, SRNS; and Carr. Front row: Tony O'Neal, SRNS; Aaron Bodiford, SRNS; Steve Wilson, SRNS; and Allison.



Jason Burkhardt, NNSA Director for SRS Plutonium Modernization, cuts the ribbon to officially open the Machining Training Center at SRS. Also pictured from left to right: Patrick Schneider, Pit Production Operations – Area Operations Director; Rick Nash, MTC Operations; Dennis Carr; and Marvin Adams, NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs.

Machining Training Center strengthens national security

An Operations Specialist practices techniques for operating a multi-axis mill at the newly constructed MTC.



Pit Production Operations and Programs at SRS recently achieved a significant milestone in the Machining Training Center (MTC), a facility that will be used for teaching critical skills and developing competency in various machining tool operations for training in an unclassified, non-nuclear setting. These skills may be used in a variety of capacities on-site, including NNSA national security missions.

Jason Burkhardt, NNSA Director for SRS Plutonium Modernization, visited the MTC recently for a tour and observation. During this time, an Operations Machining Specialist demonstrated making multiple full cuts on a training object using a piece of equipment known as a High Precision Lathe, marking the first-ever “training cuts” using this equipment in the MTC. Another Operations Machining Specialist demonstrated a successful functionality test, operating the High Precision Lathe at full speed to ensure no issues were present following routine maintenance.

“Performing the first training cuts in the MTC is a significant milestone for the Pit Production Operations and Programs organization, SRNS and our nation,”

said Erika Baeza-Wisdom, Deputy Vice President Pit Production Operations and Programs. “This milestone marks the first tangible accomplishment on the pit program’s path to developing the machining skills our future operators will need. This also demonstrates SRNS’ commitment to meet national security needs with the same excellence in production for which SRS is known.”

Developed to build personnel competency in the operation and maintenance of high-precision machining equipment, the MTC will be a critical component of training future personnel at SRS. Once proficiency is established, employees will transfer to other areas of the Site for further job-specific training and development.

“The MTC is the first stop on the path to teaching the critical skills and developing the proficiencies future operators will need,” said Burkhardt. “Investing in this facility demonstrates NNSA’s commitment to partnering with SRS to cultivate a workforce capable of positively impacting the local, national and global security landscape. The SRS Pit Production Operations and Programs have made great strides in the last year to bring this training facility online.”

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on August 13, in 766-H, commemorating the official opening of the MTC.

“The Machining Training Center will play a key role in expanding SRS national security missions,” said Dennis Carr. “Bringing this facility online is an important investment in the science and technology required to maintain a safe, reliable, effective nuclear stockpile. SRS remains committed to making the world safer.”

The training experience initiated at the MTC is expected to help reduce the time required to achieve operator proficiency by developing skills in a dedicated training setting versus an operational environment.

“The Savannah River Site has a long history of producing both tritium and plutonium,” said Marvin Adams, NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs. “Now, SRS is being called on to deliver components that contain tritium and plutonium into the future as far as we can foresee. NNSA, the Department of Defense and the nation will continue to depend on SRS to consistently deliver on these high-priority missions.”



Members of the MTC team demonstrate equipment function during a walking tour of the facility, following the ribbon cutting.

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“Performing the first training cuts in the MTC is a significant milestone for the Pit Production Operations and Programs organization, SRNS and our nation.”

**Erika Baeza-Wisdom,
Deputy Vice President
Pit Production Operations and Programs**

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Darlene Murdoch, Senior Vice President, NNSA Pit Production Operations and Programs, celebrates the official opening of the Machining Training Center with the MTC team.

NNSA MC&A Academy intern joins SRS

A student intern recently joined SRS for the NNSA-sponsored Material Control and Accountability (MC&A) Academy through the Minority Serving Institution Internship Program (MSIIP).

NNSA Office of Security Operations and Programmatic Planning recently established the first MC&A Academy — an internship program in partnership with NNSA MSIIP and complex-wide internship programs — to develop a talent pipeline and recruitment tool in support of DOE and NNSA missions.

Andy Gomez, a rising senior at George Mason University, was assigned special projects for NNSA MC&A and SRNS. His projects will include a new technology development effort evaluating the performance of a Nondestructive Assay (NDA) detector. Gomez will also help SRNS NDA experts model and qualify the NDA detector to measure Special Nuclear Materials holdup.

"I'm working with Dr. Alex Brand to design and optimize high efficiency particulate air filter composition," explained Gomez. "This design is necessary for accurate inventory and positive assurance of nuclear material to protect against theft and loss."

In addition, Gomez will tour multiple SRS facilities like those that house an underwater spent nuclear fuel disassembly basin and assist in the fuel categorization and assessment efforts.

"The NNSA MC&A Academy is an excellent opportunity for both interns and partnering DOE facilities," said Brian Whitlow, SRNS



NNSA MC&A Academy intern Andy Gomez with robot dog "Spot" during a tour of Sandia National Laboratory.

MC&A Manager. "Very few interns have the opportunity to receive a government clearance and work in Safeguards and Security."

The NNSA MC&A Academy includes a multi-week training program ran by NNSA Defense Nuclear Security at the DOE National Training Center — which offers courses, training and tours of Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories.

After completing the NA-70 training program, each of the 17 program interns are assigned a specific DOE facility to continue their internship experience.

Receiving 2024 EPEAT Purchaser Award for sustainability efforts

DOE and SRNS were recently recognized as a 2024 EPEAT Purchaser Award winner, celebrating leaders in sustainable electronics procurement.

This national recognition by the Global Electronics Council (GEC), the non-profit organization managing the EPEAT ecolabel, emphasized the environmental benefits and energy-related savings obtained by SRS during 2023 — including a total cost-savings of \$122,338 due to the use of 17,157 EPEAT registered electronics purchased.

Use of EPEAT-qualified equipment during 2023 resulted in:

- a reduction of 727,628 kilograms of CO₂ equivalents;
- a savings of 2,647,375 kilowatt-hours of electricity;
- the elimination of 60,596 kilograms of solid waste;
- a savings of 5,115,760 liters of water; and
- a monetary savings of \$122,338.

EPEAT registered products and SRS guidelines seek to minimize levels of toxic components, ensure the highest level of energy efficiency, incorporate recycled content, facilitate end-of-life recycling and reduce unnecessary packaging.

One of the key contributors in this achievement is the SRNS Preferred Hardware List (PHL), which helps expedite the buying process for common supplies and standardizes technology to reduce overall risk.

"The list was developed to help end users choose a product model that is energy efficient, least impactful to the environment and pre-approved by Counterintelligence and Security," said Tracy Padgett, Requisition Security Review Coordinator and Supply Chain Risk Management Coordinator. "In addition, EPEAT allows SRS to efficiently address the lifecycle impacts of common electronic purchases."

The PHL contains alternatives for frequently-purchased items like computers, displays, printers, copiers, network equipment, mobile phones, servers, photovoltaic modules, inverters and televisions.

"We are thrilled to be awarded the EPEAT Purchaser Award for the fourth consecutive year," said Bruce Page, SRNS Chief Information Officer. "As a winner, SRS receives a calculation of the environmental and cost benefits associated with our EPEAT registered purchases. We must continue to utilize EPEAT products to help meet our mission to protect the environment for future generations."

Providing work-based learning at HBCUs

To build a capable and representative workforce, SRNS has developed partnerships and agreements with regional post-secondary institutions. More specifically, nine Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) agreements between SRNS and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are creating new job opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students and alumni.

“SRNS primarily supports regional HBCUs by facilitating the development of institutional capacity,” said Anitra McManus, SRNS Human Resources Specialist. “We also offer professional development opportunities, maintain a strong campus presence and increase work-based learning opportunities for eligible students.”

Since joining SRNS in 2020, McManus has facilitated over 275 student resume revisions, conducted 35 professional development workshops and visited over 30 college campuses to enhance students’ readiness for the workforce.

“As a result of these efforts, we have noticed a substantial increase in the number of qualified applications and new employees from HBCUs over the last three years,” continued McManus. “In total, SRNS has successfully onboarded 55 HBCU candidates into its work-based learning programs and hired 87 full-time employees.”

SRNS Project Controls intern J’von Gilmore recently graduated from South Carolina State University, one of the most prestigious HBCUs in the state. During the SRNS Internship Program “Signing Day” event, Gilmore was one of four HBCU interns to accept a full-time job offer.

“In this role, I have gained valuable connections with industry leaders and become more confident in my skills,” said Gilmore. “I am ecstatic



President of Paine College Cheryl Evans Jones and SRNS Executive Vice President Sean Alford at a memorandum of understanding signing in 2022.

about my full-time job offer and can’t wait to transition into my new role in Project Controls.”

From formal training and apprenticeship programs to strategic recruitment and research partnerships, college and university engagement plays a critical role in the future of the SRNS workforce. Current partnerships impact nine states and include 33 colleges and universities, and 14 Minority Serving Institutions.

“Over 35% of the current SRNS workforce are graduates from our 33 partnering institutions,” said Sean Alford, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief of Administration. “We aim to build an agile and competent workforce with varied experiences, backgrounds and perspectives, through these collaborative agreements.”

Sponsoring Students2Work Program participants

SRNS recently sponsored Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce’s 2024 Students2Work Program to provide two students with the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on work experience and mentorship.

Now in its seventh year, the Student2Work program has provided hundreds of high school juniors and seniors with paid internship experiences at local non-profits.

SRNS-sponsored interns Alex Miles and Thomas Clark completed their six-week summer internship with Alliance for Fort Eisenhower. The pair assisted in planning the largest CyberPatriot summer camp in the region. In addition, they helped plan and execute the distribution of 100 AT&T grant-provided computers to military spouses stationed on Fort Eisenhower.

“Our interns did a phenomenal job working on the CyberPatriot summer camp planning committee for the Alliance,” said Tom Clark, Executive Director of CSRA Alliance for Fort Eisenhower. “CyberPatriot promotes STEM programs to area K-12 children to strengthen their cyber skills. We had a remarkable turnout of nearly 220 campers between the ages of 10 and 17.”

Since 2019, the Alliance for Fort Eisenhower has hosted free CyberPatriot summer camps — graduating over 750 of the region’s youth from basic and advanced programs. This year, over 66% of attending campers had an immediate family member serving in the United States military, and 40% were female.

“Without the support of SRNS and Augusta Chamber, these efforts could not be possible,” said Clark.

President and CEO of Augusta Chamber Sue Parr said, “Nineteen of our students this year were sponsored by organizations like SRNS and placed in various non-profits throughout the community. We are extremely grateful for the community support that allows these students to gain confidence and mentorship for their future career.”



Student2Work interns Alex Miles and Thomas Clark were sponsored by SRNS to complete their six-week summer internship with Alliance for Fort Eisenhower.

Fueling the future

Fresh talent propels SRNS forward



Interns received and signed full-time service employment offers during the SRNS Signing Day event.

SRNS is committed to hiring fresh talent, recognizing that their innovation can help propel the company into the future. Recently, 61 interns received Full-Service Employment (FSE) offers and 25 received apprenticeship offers to further their careers and help build the pipeline of work ready employees.

This year, 193 students participated in the Summer internship program — a 7.2% increase over last year. Over the summer, students gained experience in a variety of SRNS occupations.

A recently held “Signing Day” allowed these interns to celebrate with their peers, SRNS managers, and mentors, while signing and accepting their position offers.

“We’re not just investing in young talent; we’re investing in the future. These bright minds will strengthen our pipeline and drive innovation to support our missions,” said Dennis Carr. “This will not only grow our company but also better the nation’s future.”

The goal of the internship program is to bridge the gap between academic study and its application in professional practice. Participation in an internship offers a glimpse into a professional work environment, while making valuable connections.

Other students received offers to join the apprenticeship program, which creates qualified FSEs trained in specific disciplines needed at SRS.

Future leaders unveiled

Recently, SRNS hosted an Intern Showcase and Farewell event to express gratitude and appreciation for interns by highlighting their accomplishments and projects completed over the summer.

During the event, 37 summer interns, studying various occupations related to engineering, computer science, physical sciences, business services, information technology, and nuclear materials control and accountability, were able to present their work and explain how the SRNS Summer Internship program helped them gain experience in their area of study.

The intern showcase and farewell help to recognize and show appreciation for the contributions the interns have made while providing them with an opportunity to network with other professionals at the Site.

“Events like these can help boost confidence, create a positive work culture by demonstrating a commitment to developing younger talent and serve as a learning experience for both interns and professionals,” said Kedesha McClary, SRNS Internship Coordinator.

Several interns featured in the showcase and farewell had the opportunity to network with professionals and present at the Intern Town Hall. Also, technological advancements that apply to improvements in various career fields were displayed.

“I was extremely pleased by the quality and enthusiasm of this year’s intern cohort,” said Angela Martin, SRNS Talent Acquisition Manager. “Watching and hearing about the personal investments they made with their summer projects filled me with immense pride and excitement.”



Thirty-seven interns participated in the Intern Showcase and Farewell event.

“SRNS recognizes the importance of hosting the annual summer internship program,” Martin continued. “It’s crucial for attracting fresh talent and fostering new perspectives and innovation within the organization. Programs such as these provide students with practical experience and mentorship, helping to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world applications, further developing their skills and helping with career and employment opportunities.”

SRNS hosted 193 interns in the summer of 2024. For more information, visit: savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com and click on “Careers” then “Opportunities for Students.”

Opportunities abound with SRPPF mission

On July 25, SRNS and Fluor, the Construction Management subcontractor for the SRPPF project, hosted a career fair to meet hiring needs for the SRPPF mission.

SRNS is responsible for the construction of SRPPF in support of the pit production mission at SRS. Fluor is hiring as part of its SRNS contract with the DOE's NNSA.

More than 1,100 job candidates attended the daylong career fair held at the Crowne Plaza in North Augusta, South Carolina. Representatives from SRNS and Fluor were on hand to answer questions and assess and recruit potential applicants.

"SRNS is proud to support Construction Management subcontractor Fluor as it increases construction management staffing for the SRPPF project," said Francine Burroughs, SRNS Senior Vice President, Workforce Services and Talent Management. "We're seeking candidates equipped to help us build this important facility at the Savannah River Site and support the SRPPF enduring mission."

Fluor Federal Services is looking to fill positions in construction management disciplines.

"Fluor is seeking candidates to support the SRPPF project with qualifications related to engineering, procurement and construction management," said Steven Fleury, Human Resources Director, Fluor. "If you can engineer it, manage it, design it or have other professional skills, we want to hear from you. It is easy to search and apply to positions online."

Available Fluor positions, located in Greenville and Aiken, include the following fields: Engineering, Estimating, Procurement, Information Technology, Human Resources, Operations, Business Services, Project Controls, Construction, Quality Control/Quality Assurance, Safety and Security Professionals and Program Management.

SRS is constructing the SRPPF complex through repurposing an unfinished concrete structure with more than 400,000 square feet of available Hazard Category-2 space, which will meet pit production requirements. Repurposing this facility allows NNSA to make use of an existing seismically-qualified structure, with numerous supporting facilities and existing SRS services and infrastructure, such as security, fire protection and emergency response.

For more information, contact HRRecruiting@srs.gov or visit savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com/Careers and Fluor.com/Careers.



SRNS and Fluor teamed up for a career fair to meet hiring needs for the SRPPF.



SRNS protégés met to share knowledge and experiences during the 2023 Mentor-Protégé Center of Excellence Day.

New recruits join DOE Mentor-Protégé Program

SRNS recently onboarded seven new small businesses into the DOE Mentor-Protégé Program.

Since 2016, SRNS has supported the DOE Mentor-Protégé Program, an initiative that assists small businesses in improving their capabilities as subcontractors across the DOE Complex. The SRNS program includes the Mentor-Protégé Center of Excellence, where experienced companies exchange best practices and valuable insights.

Lori Gee, SRNS Small Business Specialist, explained that SRNS strategically aligns the skills of small businesses with current business needs, focusing on areas typically dominated by larger corporations.

"This collaboration not only reinforces our commitment to innovation, development and growth, but also emphasizes the vital role of small businesses in advancing DOE missions," Gee said.

Over the past five years, SRNS has awarded more than \$123 million in subcontracts to protégés, with \$41 million awarded in fiscal year 2023 alone. Of the 48 protégés in the DOE program, SRNS manages 12 through its Mentor-Protégé Center of Excellence.

"By sharing expertise, knowledge and resources, this program nurtures small business growth and development," explained Lisa Tanner, Small Business Liaison Officer. "To meet emergent needs of the Site, this program provides support in key areas such as technology development, staff augmentation, project management and construction."

To date, two protégé companies have successfully completed the program, and three are scheduled to graduate in 2024. US&S Facility Services, one of the graduating protégés, specializes in janitorial services and building maintenance.

"This experience as a protégé has provided us with invaluable mentorship, resources and industry insights, significantly enhancing our capabilities and competitiveness as a growing diverse business," said Euleta Alston, US&S President and Owner.

Typically, companies participate in the program for two years with the option for three one-year extensions.

"The program serves as an incubator for small business growth while meeting the needs for critical products and services at SRS," said Dave Dietz, SRNS Senior Procurement Director. "We are thrilled to have another great combination of firms signed this year."

SRNS kicks off SRS United Way Campaign

Employees from SRS gathered to celebrate the official kickoff of the 2024 SRNS Employee United Way Campaign. Since the 1950s, SRS has continued the tradition of supporting United Way agencies with volunteer and donation efforts.

At the kickoff event, local United Way agency representatives engaged with and educated employees about the various services available to the CSRA community. SRNS United Way Chair Morgan Welch was pleased with the overall success of the event and said it was a great way for Site employees to learn more about how their campaign donations can have an amplified impact on the community.

“This year’s kickoff event was a huge success. The attendees were able to learn about different agencies and meet those who are serving in the field every day,” said Welch.

Over the next several months, SRNS, Savannah River National Laboratory, Savannah River Mission Completion and Centerra will host a variety of fundraising events to support each company’s goals toward the overall Site campaign goal of \$1.4 million.

“Employees will have the opportunity to contribute to the campaign by participating in food sales, office competitions, golf tournaments,



President and CEO of United Way of the CSRA Brittany Burnett (right) spoke with SRNS employees about the positive impacts the United Way is making on the local community.

volunteer projects and other events, and also by submitting their monthly eCard commitments,” said Ethan Guidry SRNS United Way Vice Chair.

SRS employees continue to embrace the tradition of giving, which has led to successful results over the decades. During last year’s campaign, SRS contributed over \$1.46 million to the campaign, exceeding their sitewide goal of \$1.4 million.

\$15K donation to the Cumbee Center

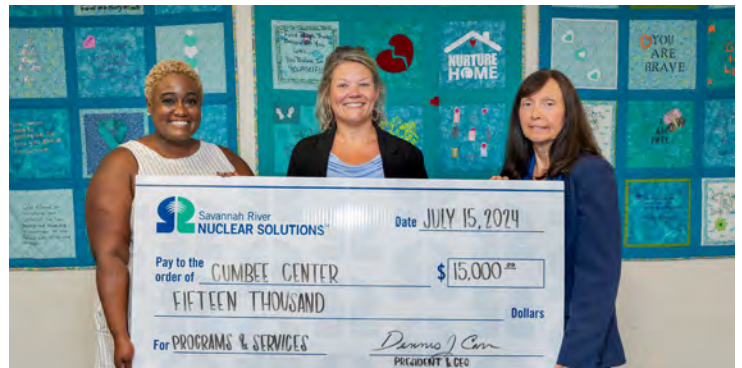
SRNS is a proud long-standing supporter of the Cumbee Center, a local non-profit organization that provides free confidential, comprehensive and highly-specialized services 24-hours every day to victims of abuse.

This year, SRNS donated \$15,000 to support the Center’s mission of empowering domestic and sexual violence victims and their families, bringing their total contributions to the organization to \$80,000 since 2014. Donations help provide services to reduce the tolerance of abuse, provide a safe haven for families fleeing abusive situations and advocate for social change.

Cumbee Center Executive Director Jessica Coach said, “Sponsorships assist our programs in uplifting survivors as they start their journey free of violence, and we are so blessed to have the support of SRNS. Some of the most vulnerable populations remain under-served; without community support, we could never achieve so much.”

For 45 years, the Cumbee Center has served six counties in South Carolina, including Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Edgefield, McCormick and Saluda. In 2023, the Cumbee Center served 724 new survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, providing over 8,500 units of service. They provided 121 survivors with 2,645 nights of safety at their emergency shelter and 149 survivors counseling. Thus far, for 2024, they’ve provided services to 616 survivors.

“Supporting and giving back to our community has always been important to SRNS,” said Darlene Murdoch, Senior Vice President, NNSA Pit Production Operations and Programs. “We are proud to



SRNS presents the Cumbee Center with a check for \$15,000 to help further their mission. Ebony Kerlin, Jessica Coach and Darlene Murdoch are pictured.

partner with the Cumbee Center and commend their extraordinary work and commitment to providing assistance for those who need it most.”

“The Cumbee Center plays a vital role in our local community, investing time and resources into educating and empowering our communities to respond and prevent domestic and sexual violence through trainings, technical assistance and increasing awareness,” said Ebony Kerlin, SRNS Physician Assistant and Secretary of the Cumbee Center’s Board of Directors. “Donations from companies like SRNS have a tremendous impact on the lives and outcomes of the many clients the Center serves. I am honored to be a part of the Cumbee Center and proud to work for a company that recognizes, and invests in, such an incredible organization.”

To learn more about the Cumbee Center, their services and how to get involved, visit www.cumbeecenter.org.



Patrick Schneider

AT SRNS: Director, Area Operations for Pit Production Operations and Programs

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

Patrick Schneider is the Director, Area Operations for Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPO) at SRNS. He is responsible for working closely with SRPPF Project Management, PPO Management and SRNS Design Authority Engineering to ensure PPO work scope and milestones are achieved. This includes implementation of programs and development of personnel and procedures for the safe operation of SRPPF, the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center (HFTOC) and Machining Training Center (MTC). His team was instrumental in bringing the MTC online, which was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 13.

Schneider joined SRPPF in December 2019, after 29 years of working for multiple contractors operating the SRS Liquid Waste Program. He has over 34 years of experience at SRS in Operations and Engineering. During his tenure at the Site, he has served in various leadership roles, including PPO Facility Manager, Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) Facility Manager Representative, Project Owner II and Lead Operations Specialist A, Saltstone Facility Operations Manager, H-Tank Farm Shift Operations Manager and Process Engineer roles in DWPF, Saltstone and H-Tank Farm. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree in business administration from the University of South Carolina.

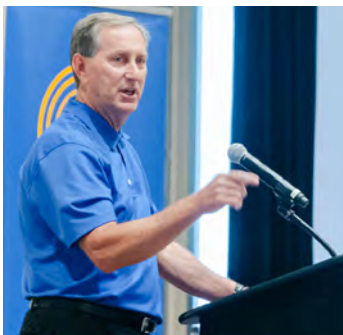
Schneider says his favorite part of working at SRNS is “shaping the future by identifying and mentoring the next generation of leaders.” He resides in Jackson, South Carolina, with his wife; and he enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with his three-year-old granddaughter and one-year-old grandson.

Growth from Within: AMP Leadership Convention

Recently, Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP) hosted Growth from Within, the annual AMP Leadership Convention. Approximately 175 people gathered for this all-day professional development event at First Baptist of Augusta.

In addition to hearing remarks from executive leaders at SRNS, Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC) and Battelle Savannah River Alliance (BSRA), attendees gained career advice from multiple presenters. Speakers included Chief Deputy Tax Commissioner for Richmond County Chris Johnson, Licensed Professional Counselor Alexandria Horton and Certified Executive Coach Paco Valencia. Attendees also participated in networking and teambuilding activities.

AMP is a leadership organization for SRNS, SRMC and BSRA full-time employees who have between eight and 20 years of experience. Site employees can get more information at <https://srs.gov.sharepoint.com/sites/AMP> or send an email to amp@srs.gov to be added to the AMP distribution.



FEATURE FRIDAY

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



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media



Carla Wheeler
Engineering Manager



Morgan Creasy
Associate Human
Resources Specialist



Joseph Brutto
Tritium Extraction Facility
Deputy Operations Manager



Patrick Schneider
Director, Area Operations
for PPO

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



Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONSSM