

● MAY 2025

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today

Stronger. Safer. Together.

Annual expo empowers employees to engage in safety



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

SRPPF glovebox fabrication • SRPPF and SRTE apprentices graduate • Eisenhower award



Dennis Carr
SRNS President and CEO

On the cover

At the SRS Safety Expo, Local Safety Improvement Teams (LSITs) from across the Site engaged employees in interactive games designed to reinforce safe practices both on- and off-site. Dennis Carr plays ring toss while answering safety questions at the Bomb Squad LSIT booth.

Welcome

to the May 2025 edition of

SRNS Today

As I prepare to depart SRS this June, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the incredible team at Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and the broader Savannah River Site community. Serving as your President and CEO since August 2023 has been one of the greatest honors of my career.

At SRNS, I've had the privilege of working alongside some of the most dedicated, mission-driven professionals I've encountered in over 40 years in this industry. The professionalism, passion and resilience I've witnessed here are truly unmatched; and together, we've continued to advance critical national security priorities, operate with excellence and uphold the highest standards of safety and integrity.

I'm proud of the progress we've made on key initiatives-especially in supporting the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration through projects like the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility. These efforts are vital to our nation's defense; and I leave knowing SRNS is in capable, committed hands.

From my early days at the Fernald Closure Project to my work at Portsmouth and now here at SRS, I've always believed in the power of teamwork, integrity and safety. As I step into retirement, I look forward to spending more time with my family, traveling, and reflecting on the many incredible chapters of my career; but I'll always carry with me the pride of having served this mission and of having served with all of you.

Thank you for your trust, dedication and partnership. It has truly been an honor. I hope you enjoy this month's edition of SRNS Today and I wish each of you continued success and fulfillment in the work ahead.



Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONSSM

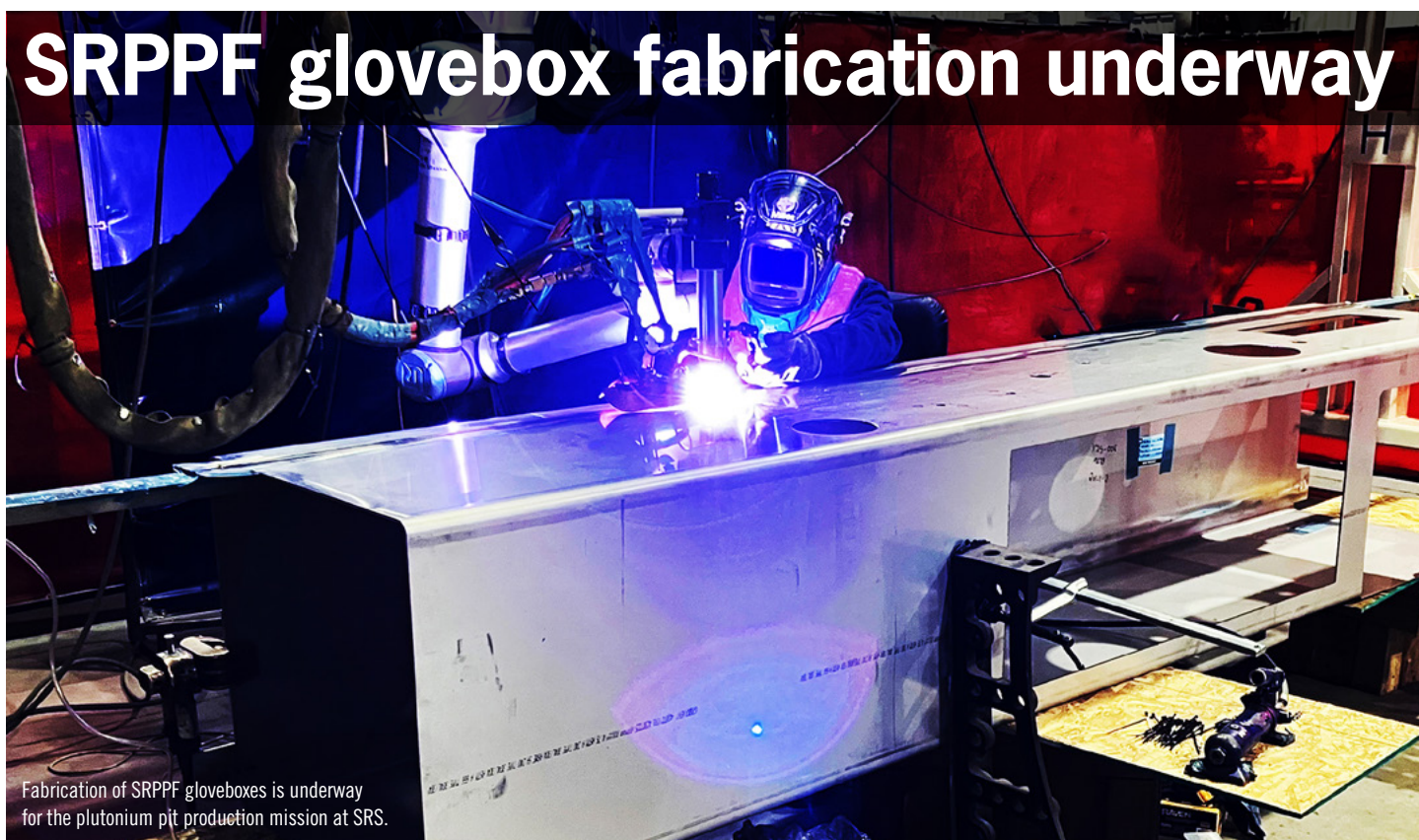
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building 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)

SRPPF glovebox fabrication underway



Fabrication of SRPPF gloveboxes is underway for the plutonium pit production mission at SRS.

THE FABRICATION OF GLOVEBOXES is underway for the plutonium pit production mission at SRS.

“Gloveboxes will be a key component of pit production operations within the SRPPF,” said Dennis Carr. “The early procurement and fabrication of these gloveboxes is critical to delivering completion of this project for the NNSA by the early 2030s.”

Gloveboxes are used across the NNSA's Nuclear Security Enterprise to protect employees from exposure to radioactive material as they conduct mission-critical work in support of national security.

The plutonium pit production mission is an essential part of the NNSA's long-term strategy for nuclear stockpile sustainment. A plutonium pit is a critical component of every nuclear weapon.

SRPPF is being constructed through repurposing an unfinished facility at SRS with more than 400,000 square feet of available Hazard Category-2 space. This allows the NNSA to make use of an existing, seismically-qualified structure to meet pit production requirements.

The SRPPF project requires an incredibly complex design involving building modifications and special facility equipment procurements.

“The SRPPF Project Execution team is working to accelerate procurements and fabrication of process equipment in parallel with design maturation and early site preparation activities,” said Brian Pool, SRPPF Director of Glovebox Delivery. “More than half of the several hundred gloveboxes needed for the SRPPF project have begun fabrication. This forward momentum shows the teamwork happening between SRNS, our Construction Management subcontractor Fluor and our NNSA counterparts to deliver on this critical mission.”

In May, SRPPF received the first NNSA Demonstration Program glovebox which will be used in the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center (HFTOC). The HFTOC is a facility on-site that will be used to train SRPPF personnel, develop operator proficiency, and provide hands-on experience with simulated radiological controls.

“The HFTOC is an integral piece to the success of SRPPF,” said Darlene Murdoch, SRNS Senior Vice President – NNSA Pit Production Operations and Programs. “We are working closely with the SRPPF project team to ensure we deliver on our commitment to achieve our modernization goals and enhance planning, training and operational readiness for the facility.”

NNSA must be able to produce no fewer than 80 pits per year to maintain and replenish the nuclear stockpile. Responsibilities for manufacturing pits will be shared between SRS and Los Alamos National Laboratory.



May marks the delivery of the first HFTOC glovebox arriving at SRPPF.

SRS celebrates first class of SRPPF Nuclear Operator Apprentice graduates

SRS continues to expand its workforce, as the inaugural class of SRPPF Nuclear Operator Apprentices was recognized at a ceremony, on April 23, for completing the Nuclear Fundamentals Apprenticeship Program at Denmark Technical College (DTC).

This event marks a significant milestone in developing staffing for pit production at the Site's SRPPF facility, which—along with Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico—has been tasked by the NNSA with producing plutonium pits at the quantities needed to achieve nuclear deterrence.

The five apprentices—Chris Cody, Logan Hamblin, David (Zach) Whitson, Brianna Golphin and Cade Martin—were honored during a completion ceremony, along with three apprentices from Savannah River National Laboratory—Jayden Baker, Adrien McCall and Mitchell Webster. After completing the eight-month program, which involved simultaneous classroom work at DTC's Allendale, South Carolina satellite campus and on-the-job training at SRS, all eight apprentices have earned a certificate in nuclear fundamentals and a portable credential from the Department of Labor.

SRNS Senior Vice President – NNSA Pit Production Operations and Programs Darlene Murdoch was the keynote speaker at the completion ceremony event, telling the graduates, “As part of the very first class of SRPPF apprentices, you are blazing a trail as future leaders and the new generation of decision makers at the Savannah River Site. SRS has a long-standing track record of 75 years of service to the nation. You are now part of that legacy, and we are excited to welcome you to the team. We look forward to watching your careers progress for many years to come.”

Zach Whitson, along with the other SRPPF apprentices, will now transition to full-time positions working in the Pit Production Operations and Programs organization with SRNS. “This program has been great for starting my career,” he said. “The SRS Apprenticeship Program provides the opportunity to make a good living and jump start your future. I would recommend it to anyone.”

The SRS Apprenticeship School was created as an industry partnership with local technical colleges to help build workforce pipelines for various disciplines at SRS. In addition to DTC, the School's community partners now include Aiken Technical College, Augusta Technical College and economic development agencies like the Lower Savannah Council of Governments and the SRS Community Reuse Organization.

While addressing the students, DTC President and Chief Executive Officer Willie L. Todd, Jr. remarked, “You are making a real and lasting impact. I deeply admire the dedication each of you has shown. You are a living testament to what's possible when purpose meets perseverance. My hope is that the confidence you feel today continues to shine wherever your journey takes you and that when someone asks where you received your training, you'll say with enthusiasm, ‘Denmark Technical College.’ We're excited about our growing partnership with SRS and the tremendous opportunities it's opening up for our students.”

“Essentially these students will now be on the front lines of the nuclear deterrent as SRNS employees,” said Patrick Ott, SRS Apprenticeship Program Lead. “Every day, they are demonstrating the SRS mantra of ‘We make the world safer.’”



Personnel from the SRS Apprenticeship School, Denmark Technical College (DTC) and SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs attend an April 23 completion ceremony held at DTC. The event honors SRPPF and Savannah River National Laboratory Nuclear Operator Apprentices.

SRNS welcomes 15 Nuclear Operators



Augusta Technical College graduates attend a ceremony commemorating their Nuclear Fundamental technology certificates.

Fifteen apprentices recently earned their Nuclear Fundamental Technology certificates from Augusta Technical College (ATC) in Augusta, Georgia, following their graduation from the SRNS Nuclear Operator Program. Upon fulfilling all employment requirements, these graduates will become fully-qualified operators in the SRNS Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE).

"We are excited to have this wonderful group of graduates join us in Tritium," said SRNS Senior Vice President NNSA Tritium Operations and Programs JC Epting. "SRTE is the only facility in the nation capable of preparing tritium for the nuclear weapons stockpile and these young men and women will play a vital role in making sure we meet our national security commitments."

The ceremony honored the graduates of the program. Vice President of Economic Development, ATC Julie Langham and Epting shared opening remarks at the event. Special guest speakers included DOE-Savannah River Deputy Manager Edwin DeShong, Site Training Deputy Director NNSA and Environmental Management Wendy Lark, and three participants from the graduating class.

The eight-month Nuclear Operator Program offers students a distinctive learning experience by combining classroom instruction at a partnering technical college with paid on-the-job training alongside experienced senior operators. In addition, students gain a thorough understanding of the safety protocols and work culture at the Site, ensuring a smooth transition into their full-time positions.

SRPPF site preparation



Ongoing site preparation activities, in May, at the SRPPF project at SRS included heavy civil earthwork movement. A second shift has been initiated to accelerate site prep activities. This additional shift has furthered the establishment of a borrow pit to support the project as a whole and the completion of a haul road that is now open for use as the primary excavation route.



SRNS Shift Operations Manager Haley Ramsey, right, and Machine Training Center Operations Manager Andrew Walczak, second from right, give an overview of the tensile tester to attending educators. The test is used to assess how a material behaves under stress.

Educators explore defense missions

Eighteen educators from seven surrounding counties recently visited the SRS Machining Training Center (MTC) to learn about SRPPF and other critical mission scopes that support the NNSA.

Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach Lead, highlighted the importance of partnerships with local educators, especially as SRS aims to hire 9,000 additional employees over the next five years to support mission-related projects.

“Providing these opportunities ensures educators are aware of our workforce needs, career paths and critical mission scopes while fostering a pipeline of well-trained graduates ready to enter our workforce,” said Mitchell.

The newly-constructed MTC addresses a critical training need for SRPPF, which supports the U.S. nuclear stockpile by producing plutonium pits—key components in nuclear weapons—at the quantities needed to meet military requirements using a two-site strategy with Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. MTC operators develop the necessary skills for proficient machining and welding operations in an unclassified, non-nuclear setting.

“The MTC provides an opportunity to train and evaluate personnel in the use of equipment, procedures, software systems, maintenance, configuration control, manufacturing reviews, and operations,” said Ross Montgomery, SRPPF Deputy Facility Manager. “These skills are essential for the success of SRPPF’s safe and timely operations, and we are excited to tour educators who can share these opportunities with hundreds of students each year.”

Attendees learned about the in-demand skills SRS is seeking, including a strong foundation in STEM disciplines, and the training approach for new hires supporting SRPPF.

“We call it the ‘crawl, walk and run approach,’” said Andrew Walczak, MTC Operations Manager. “This training strategy allows specialists to

get their feet wet in a non-radioactive environment where errors are more manageable and safer.”

Upon graduating from the MTC, specialists will transition into the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center, where they will learn to navigate physical restrictions and gain experience with simulated radiological controls and errors. Finally, fully-qualified operators will move to the SRPPF Main Process Building, where they will handle the product in its final form, governed by controls and restrictions.

“Our specialists will learn the process and controls in a graded approach prior to reaching that final ‘run’ stage,” Walczak continued. “They will be fully prepared to operate the equipment in a compliant and safe manner, ensuring the successful delivery of our most critical mission objectives.”

“The new MTC is impressive, and the three-phase training strategy is excellently designed,” said Mary Beth Avent, Principal and Guidance Adviser at Town Creek Christian Academy. “The initial MTC trainees will become the first trainers, demonstrating the teamwork and collaborative learning that educators highly value in establishing the right procedures.”

Attendees also gained a new perspective on the Site’s rich history and insight into past, present and future missions during an SRS driving tour.

“I was particularly impressed with two aspects of the driving tour. In terms of the environment, the Site’s ongoing mission to clean up nuclear waste prioritizes the safety of workers and the community while supporting national interests,” Avent noted. “SRS also continues to safeguard nuclear materials from falling into the hands of non-friendly forces, which was a recurring theme throughout my visit.”

Around 400 legacy TRU containers remaining

Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF) employees continue to prove their unique skills and ability to adapt to ship transuranic (TRU) waste as demonstrated through a recent drum de-nesting campaign.

SWMF is working a campaign to de-nest TRU waste drums, from a grouped set of drums within larger outer containers for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for permanent disposition.

“SRS currently has over 400 legacy TRU waste containers remaining that require disposal at WIPP,” said SWMF Deputy Facility Manager Jonathan Hall.

Hall explained that when operations began at SRS in the 1950s, different criteria were used to segregate and package TRU waste for disposal. “It was put into drums or waste boxes as it was created to meet the rapid pace that the Site was producing materials,” he said. However, WIPP requires TRU waste packages to meet current limits and standards before accepting it, requiring de-nesting of the remaining waste.

“As legacy containers continue to ship, it becomes increasingly difficult to group and certify containers due to variables associated with the type of materials contained, availability of historic documentation, container integrity and plutonium equivalent concentration, or PEC, limits,” Hall said. “In order to ship as much TRU off-site as quickly as possible, we have focused on containers that have been readily certifiable. Now we are challenged with the more difficult containers.”

“While this scope consists of activities and movement strategies typical for Solid Waste Operations, this specific evolution required strategic planning, coordination and procedure changes to allow the reconfigured state that meets the WIPP criteria,” said Hall.

“SWMF has a long history of strong operational performance and delivering on the job safely and efficiently,” Dennis Carr said. “SRNS is proud of our efforts to de-inventory TRU Waste from SRS with more than 1,740 total shipments completed to date from the SWMF.”



In order to ship the de-nested TRU waste, the waste needed to be removed from their storage containers and placed into certified shipping containers. Operators perform removal activities in a plastic hut, using full personal protective equipment.

MC Lab etches a path for safe plutonium operations

The Material Characterization (MC) Laboratory is preparing for future safe plutonium pit production at SRS, with the recent addition of a Precision Etching and Coating System (PECS II) ion mill to complement the metallographic preparation capabilities in the Machining Training Center (MTC) Metallurgical Characterization Line (Met Line).

According to James Maner, MC Lab Manager, “Traditional metallographic preparation of metal samples uses an acidic solution for etching and/or electropolishing. This traditional method, while thoroughly vetted and reliable, produces a hazardous waste and can pose safety issues for employees. The ion mill, however, generates no hazardous wastes and is much safer for workers.”

Part of the SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) organization, the MC Lab will employ seven summer interns who will use the PECS ion mill in the MTC to polish and etch a variety of metals to evaluate instrument settings and document results. The goal of these activities is identifying appropriate instrument settings and extrapolating this

information for additional materials.

An additional PECS ion mill will be housed in the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center (HFTOC). Following turnover of the HFTOC to PPOP, MC Lab scientists will continue to work with a variety of materials in preparation for ion mill work with plutonium.

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is evaluating the PECS as a replacement for traditional chemical etching. “Through Mutual Support efforts at LANL, MC Lab scientists will work with LANL nuclear material scientists to begin understanding and documenting the behavior or response of plutonium to ion mill etching and polishing,” said Maner. “The final goal is to produce a similar metal surface finish for metallographic characterization using a digital microscope.”

The HFTOC will be used for developing operator proficiency using high-fidelity surrogate material prior to SRPPF start-up operations. SRPPF will produce the plutonium pits needed for modernization of the U.S. nuclear stockpile to achieve nuclear deterrence.



Senior Engineer Dan Foley practices loading a sample into the PECS ion mill.

Strengthening SRS culture, community and confidence...



Safety Expo 2025

On April 22-24, the Site hosted its Safety Expo, featuring over 80 informational booths designed to educate and engage SRS employees on a range of topics. This annual event allows employees to learn more about safety and security resources available both on-site and in the local communities.

Held at the New Ellenton Parks and Recreation Center in New Ellenton, South Carolina, this year's event welcomed more than 4,000 attendees from all SRS contractors for two-and-a-half days of safety engagement. The event, sponsored by SRNS, shared information with employees ranging from safety, security and environmental stewardship to personal health, wellness and other community services designed to improve quality of life.

Twenty-three Local Safety Improvement Teams (LSITs) hosted interactive booths at the Expo, along with participants from Savannah River Mission Completion, Savannah River National Laboratory, U.S. Forest Service and Centerra, as well as several community organizations. Booths featured safety and security-centered games, quizzes and more.

A new initiative was launched this year to help give back to the New Ellenton community with a food drive. Employees were encouraged to bring non-perishable goods to the event and received tickets for each item donated. A drawing was held at the end of the event with three winners who walked away with a 70-inch TV and two iPads. SRNS also generously donated \$1,000 to the cause.

"An event of this size requires a lot of planning, effort and hard work on everyone's part," said Lea Simons, Safety Expo Planning Lead and Health and Safety Manager. "Thank you to everyone who pours their time, engagement and enthusiasm into this event each year. Without our employees' active participation, a successful safety exposition would not be possible."

Aside from safety, the expo also provides a unique off-site experience for employees to network with those with whom they typically might not interface. This year, the eSxpo also hosted a record breaking 12 food vendors with a wide variety of offerings and even gluten free options to ensure there is something for everyone.

"What I enjoyed most about the Safety Expo is the sense of comradery—reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones," said L Area Production Operator Rhonneka McCoy. "This was my second time attending, and what stood out the most was the creativity, effort and pride on display. Every booth brought something unique to the table while staying focused on safety."

According to Duane McLane, SRNS' new Senior Vice President, Environment, Safety, Health and Quality, "This year's Safety Expo was a great success! The LSIT volunteers, booths and attendance reaffirmed the commitment, involvement and dedication of our workforce to safety. Thank you to all who volunteered and attended to keep safety as the top priority at SRNS and the Site."



EVMS certification strengthens project management and delivery

SRNS Project Controls and the Surplus Plutonium Disposition (SPD) Project team are enhancing project management at SRS using the Earned Value Management System (EVMS). This proven framework helps manage the scope, schedule, budget and costs of high-risk, high-complexity capital projects.

SRNS is pursuing EVMS certification to support its growing project portfolio following the transition in landlord ownership from DOE Environmental Management to NNSA. This transition has introduced several major initiatives tied to the SRPPF mission and the SPD Project, further increasing the need for a more structured, data-driven project management approach.

Due to the influx of large-scale projects driven by the Site's expanding missions and aging infrastructure, the DOE Office of Project Controls (PM-30) selected the SPD Project for EVMS certification. Efforts are underway with a dual-track approach, working closely with both the NNSA and PM-30.

"Receipt of certification will serve as a testament to our ability to manage complex projects with precision and efficiency," said Staci Peters, SRNS Senior Vice President of Business Services. "The Project Controls Central Group (PCCG) has played a crucial role in our successes to date through their dedication and expertise."

In 2024, PCCG conducted a thorough assessment of its project management practices and identified opportunities for improvement. From there, the team developed a detailed implementation roadmap, launched training programs for project personnel and configured EVMS tools to align with SRNS' unique mission requirements. The SPD Project data was measured monthly against 183 different metrics to track project performance and prepare the team for certification.

"EVMS is already embedded in the way we do business at SRS," said Shannan Lucero, SRNS Director of Project Controls. "As we take on larger, more complex project portfolios, certification gives us the tools and credibility to manage risk, increase accountability and deliver results. We now have the data to confidently say where we've been, where we are, and where we're going."

EVMS certification is anticipated by the end of the calendar year.



SRNS personnel, along with the DOE Office of Project Controls staff, complete the on-site Environmental Assessment as part of the journey towards Earned Value Management System certification.



Lisa Tanner, SRNS Small Business Liaison Officer and Dave Dietz, SRNS Senior Director of Supply Chain Procurement accept the U.S. Small Business Administration's Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence in Services.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Award recipient

SRNS Small Business Programs was honored with the prestigious 2025 Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence in Services by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) on May 5. Small Business Liaison Officer Lisa Tanner accepted the award on behalf of SRNS during the National Small Business Week ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The SBA recognizes excellence across small businesses and key resource partners to empower American job creators and drive economic growth in government contracting.

"This Dwight D. Eisenhower Award represents the highest honor for a contractor as a small business advocate," said Jay Johnson, SRNS Deputy Senior Vice President of Business Services and Chief Contracting Officer. "I'm so proud of this team for their intentional actions to fully leverage the capability and expertise of our small businesses."

Over the last five years, SRNS has committed \$2.6 billion dollars—66% of total commitments—to small businesses. In fiscal year 2024 alone, SRNS set a record of \$798 million in commitments to local, regional and national small businesses. Additionally, SRNS continues to assist small businesses navigating contract award processes to ensure they are considered for subcontracting opportunities supporting the DOE and NNSA.

"Lisa brings a level of excellence to small business programs that is second to none," said Gary Lyttek, Senior Business Source Manager for the NNSA Office of Partnership and Acquisition Services. "Her hard work is a credit to herself, SRNS and the NNSA. Her efforts directly result in expanded economic growth in American companies—we couldn't be prouder of her."

SRNS has received five awards for best practices in small business over the last three years.

"We are dedicated to working with and helping small businesses grow, and we take pride in opportunities made available to work with SRNS," said Tanner. "SRNS executes a 'small business first' approach for procurements, with some buyers awarding over 93% of work, in any given month, to small businesses."

By championing small businesses, SRNS creates a more dynamic and resilient business ecosystem, contributing to the broader economic prosperity.

The ‘Green Eyes’ advantage: Seeing safety differently



The Green Eyes Safety Review Team (Duke Snider, Branson Taylor, Clay Beam and Corbin Seigler) reviews a work package in 704-L with Mildred Starlings.

SRNS Construction has taken its commitment to safety to new heights with the innovative “Green Eyes Safety Review Team.” Since 2022, this team has offered a ‘fresh eyes’ approach to inspecting construction activities, shops, storage and laydown areas at SRS.

This initiative reinforces SRS’ 75-year legacy as a safety leader, with the Site garnering over 200 safety-related awards since 2008. SRNS Construction completed 2024 without a single lost workday, bringing the total to over 2 million hours of work since the last lost workday.

“Safety is never an afterthought with this group,” said Chandler Elkins, SRNS Director of Construction Services. “This team is another layer of added security to our construction activities and has been recognized as a best practice by many of our facility customers who find it both valuable and insightful.”

The team conducts monthly facility and fieldwork inspections to ensure compliance with safety protocols. They engage with field workers to ensure appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) usage and identify any safety concerns or hazards within work areas. Additionally, they establish clean and efficient storage and fabrication areas to prevent future inefficiencies. Findings are documented, and area management is informed of both positive and negative outcomes.

“Our primary goal is to provide proactive oversight to mitigate risks in construction and operations before incidents occur,” said Corbin Seigler, SRNS Construction Program Compliance and Fire Protection Coordinator. “Our team offers coaching on PPE mishaps and proper barricade use, assists with work package documentation, and ensures storage areas adhere to procedural guidelines.”



The Green Eyes Safety Review Team assess a laydown yard in K Area.

“Over time, area workers have become more comfortable being assessed and understand the Site’s expectations more clearly, reinforcing good behavior and practices,” said Bobby Hill, SRNS Construction Site Superintendent. “We are developing a culture where workers feel safe bringing up issues, knowing the team will find solutions without repercussions.”

The core safety team consists of an area representative, a program compliance representative, a safety representative, a craft general foreman, a construction discipline engineer and a construction manager.

“We believe in identifying and addressing behavioral issues internally to maintain our excellent safety track record,” Elkins concluded. “The Green Eyes Safety Review Team continues to play a pivotal role in maintaining and enhancing the culture of safety at SRS, ensuring a safer environment for all employees and contractors.”

Enhancing project execution and delivery

SRNS recently announced the formation of a Project Delivery Organization (PDO) designed to improve project efficiency and success rates. The PDO will introduce robust infrastructure to support SRNS' complex project portfolio, which currently includes approximately 60 active NNSA and Environmental Management projects.

The portfolio is expected to increase, addressing the Site's aging infrastructure and supporting its mission to produce plutonium pits—key components in nuclear weapons.

In September 2024, under the direction of Dennis Carr, the PDO was established as the single point of accountability for all project deliveries, except for large capital projects such as SRPPF, Surplus Plutonium Disposition and the Tritium Finishing Facility. The PDO aims to strengthen project teams for consistent, disciplined execution; improve project team integration; enhance project oversight and accountability; and provide advanced metrics and project tracking capabilities.

"We've made significant strides not just in terms of efficiency, training, and communication, but the real milestone here is the establishment of a singular entity responsible for project performance," said Rachel Faub, SRNS Deputy Vice President of Infrastructure Modernization and Sustainment and Director of the PDO. "With the PDO leading this effort, we can leverage our collective experience, manpower, and technology, along with direct access to SRNS executive leadership and the board of directors. This enables us to identify and address small problems before they escalate into major issues that could jeopardize project milestones or Site operations. This proactive approach is key to our success and aligns with our vision."

Faub also emphasized that this centralization will strengthen training,

qualifications, and resource deployment, ensuring a standardized, integrated, and effective application of Project Management practices throughout SRNS.

"This proactive approach positions SRNS to take advantage of opportunities and manage the expected increase in project scope in fiscal year 2026, supporting our new NNSA landlord while continuing to support EM missions," Faub said.

Phase one of the PDO was completed in December 2024. This stage included establishing the PDO's central office, creating a comprehensive training strategy, and realigning and strengthening the project risk management process.

Rusty Peel, SRNS Deputy Director of the PDO and Manager of Project Delivery Services, highlighted the importance of improving project execution to secure additional funding for current and future missions.

"Improving project execution is paramount to our company's success. By centralizing the PDO, we will drive accountability and empower Project Managers with the necessary tools and processes needed for success."

Phase two will focus on restructuring project engineering, collaborating with procurement on design and construction delivery models, and developing training materials and qualification definitions for project managers, project controls engineers, and control account managers. Future phases will include training execution, skills enhancement, and strengthening the subcontracting base. This four-phase strategy aims to fully prepare SRNS for an influx of project funding and successful project delivery.



Start Up Operations personnel take readings on the Stack Air Activity Monitor system. The PDO manage the installation of exhaust ventilation fans and support equipment at the Material Testing Facility, which conducts metallurgical analysis of tritium reservoirs, welds and failed process equipment in 234-7H. A new independent exhaust system, with backup diesel generator power, will isolate 234-7H from 234-4H as part of the Tritium Finishing Facility project.

Wheelin' Sportsmen/ SRS Ultimate Turkey Hunt



On the morning of April 11, 15 hunters, accompanied by their hunting escorts, ventured into the woods for the 20th annual Wheelin' Sportsmen/SRS Ultimate Turkey Hunt, in hopes of successfully harvesting the elusive Eastern wild turkey.

The event, sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service – Savannah River, the DOE, the Wounded Warrior Project® and the Outdoor Dream Foundation, offers disabled hunters from across the country the unique opportunity to hunt turkeys in selected locations spanning 170,000 acres of woodlands at SRS.

“For 20 years, this event has brought joy to many disabled hunters,” said U.S. Forest Service Savannah River Wildlife Program Manager Tal Mims. “It’s not just about hunting; it’s about creating unforgettable memories and providing access to experiences that might otherwise be out of reach. The dedication and passion of all involved have made this event a cornerstone of our outreach efforts, promoting both conservation and accessibility in the great outdoors.”

Employees from various contractors across the Site, including SRNS, Savannah River Mission Completion, United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service – Savannah River and Savannah River National Laboratory, were selected to serve as hunting escorts. Their role ensures the hunters have a safe and successful experience.

Hunt participants harvested 10 turkeys during the two-day hunt. Before processing, the birds were brought back to the central meeting location where wildlife biologists from the U.S. Forest Service measured and recorded each turkey’s weight, beard length and spur length. This data collection facilitates future research on wild turkey management.



Fifteen hunters and their escorts gather at the University of Georgia Savannah River Ecology Laboratory Conference Center for a group photo, following the first hunt of the event.

\$20K donation aids vulnerable local children

SRNS recently presented a \$20,000 donation to the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of Aiken County at the non-profit’s 20th annual fundraising gala. Over the years, SRNS has given over \$240,000 to CAC in support of their mission to provide intervention, treatment and prevention services that promote healing for Aiken County children who have experienced abuse.

Since 2008, SRNS has contributed more than \$15 million throughout the CSRA through corporate philanthropic contributions to charitable causes; education outreach investments in K-12 schools and regional two- and four-year colleges and universities; and economic development and community partnerships. More than 60 SRNS employees serve in leadership roles in regional civic and business organizations, and employees continue to generously contribute their own time and charitable donations.



Kent Williams, Director of the Radiological Protection Department at SRNS, recently completed a six-year tenure as CAC treasurer. “I’m proud to be a part of a company like SRNS—one that consistently invests in the well-being of our local community through meaningful financial support,” Williams said. “CAC is one of those places you really wish the community didn’t need—but we do.”

Staci Peters, Senior Vice President of Business Services at SRNS, is joining CAC as a board member this year. “At SRNS, we believe that strong communities lead to shared success. Supporting organizations that uplift others is core to who we are,” she said. Peters also stated that she was motivated to join the board of CAC due to its unwavering support to some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

Each year, CAC provides services to over 600 Aiken County children, ages three to 18 years old, who have been victims of physical or sexual abuse, neglect or witness to a violent crime.

Recycling initiatives boost efficiency and reduce costs

SRNS continues to demonstrate its commitment to environmental stewardship by ramping up recycling efforts at SRS, resulting in substantial reductions in waste and cost savings.

With its most recent recycling projects, SRS is on track to surpass last year's recycling efforts by fiscal year-end. In FY24, SRNS recycled over 26 million pounds of materials, significantly contributing to operational efficiency at the Site. The materials included an estimated 19.5 million pounds of concrete and asphalt waste, 5.3 million pounds of scrap metal, 881,000 pounds of office paper, and 383,000 pounds of office furniture.

"The Site's comprehensive recycling initiatives highlight its dedication to minimizing its environmental footprint and promoting cost-effective waste management," said Jennifer Weedon, SRNS Energy Efficiency and Environmental Stewardship. "One of our recent and notable efforts included the recycling of five switchgear transformers, each weighing 100,000 pounds."

After reaching the end of their 70-year lifespan, the five 115-kilovolt transformers were excessed and donated to the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO).

"The recycling of these components mitigates safety and congestion issues in active construction zones and also aligns with the DOE push for effective resource utilization," said Andrew Ellsworth, SRNS Utilities and Operating Services. "Given the transformers' large size and valuable components, they were perfect resources to allocate to SRSCRO."

Since 1993, SRSCRO has reutilized DOE surplus property and equipment from SRS, making them available at reasonable prices to organizations that create jobs and support economic development in our region.

"In addition to supporting the local community, recycling through SRSCRO saves the Site from incurring landfill disposal and handling costs," said Randy Keenan, SRNS Director of Site Services. "It's a win-win for the company and the environment."



Over 47,000 pounds of scrap metal are recycled as part of a switchgear replacement project at the Site's River Water Pumphouse.

In another recent project, SRS filled three 30-yard roll-off containers and two 12-yard skid pans with scrap metal from the Site's River Water Pumphouse, which were subsequently sent to the Site Salvage Yard. In total, over 47,000 pounds of scrap metal were recycled—the vast majority of which came from internal switchgear components that had exceeded their design life inside the pumphouse.

The Site's diverse recycling efforts span various programs, ensuring that valuable items are recycled through commercially acceptable practices in alignment with DOE directives. Upcoming projects will focus on decommissioning and recycling abandoned steam and power lines that were installed during the 1950s and 60s when SRS was operating at full capacity. These efforts aim to reduce the Site's footprint by recycling still-usable materials and mitigating potential hazards.



Guns N' Hoses champions

On Sunday, May 4, the Savannah River Site Fire Department (SRSFD) softball team participated in the first-ever Guns N' Hoses softball tournament at SRP Park to benefit FireK FiveK, a non-profit organization that makes donations to first responders in the CSRA who are battling cancer. The tournament consisted of teams representing the Augusta Fire Department, North Augusta Public Safety, Richmond County Sheriff's Office and Aiken County Sheriff's Office. The SRSFD team went undefeated, winning games against all participating teams and ultimately taking home the championship title.



Mike Garrison

AT SRNS: Sitewide Procedure Writer

IN THE COMMUNITY: Founder of Compass for Hope

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

SRNS Sitewide Procedure Writer Mike Garrison is responsible for creating, revising and maintaining: technical, operating, maintenance and administrative procedures to ensure safe and efficient operations on-site. Utilizing his master's degree in education from Augusta State University, Garrison worked as a middle school science teacher for 11 years prior to joining SRNS. He also worked with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for 20 years as an electrician for several local contractors performing commercial and industrial work, even assisting in early Site preparations of what is now the Salt Waste Processing Facility. The highlights of his construction career include work at the Augusta National's international broadcast building and the first three Walgreens buildings in the CSRA.

When asked what he enjoys most about working at SRNS, Garrison stated, "I am grateful to work with such a supportive group in Site Services who make getting things accomplished a team effort."

Aside from work, Garrison's true passion lies with Compass for Hope, a nonprofit organization located in Augusta, Georgia, which he founded seven years ago. Their mission is to build trusting relationships to help individuals transition from homelessness to stable, productive lives. Compass for Hope provides services to the homeless community, including: shower and laundry trailers, toiletries, clothing, bicycles and shelf-stable snacks.

Garrison was raised in Augusta and currently resides in North Augusta, South Carolina, where he enjoys geocaching—the equivalent of modern-day scavenger hunting—in his spare time.

Blue Angels Key Influencer Flight Program



Due to his nonprofit ventures and years of teaching/coaching experience, Garrison was recently invited to participate in the Blue Angels Key Influencer Flight Program, an initiative by the U.S. Navy's flight demonstration squadron to engage community leaders and media representatives who significantly impact youth and public perception.

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



David Miller

Shift Operations Manager
E and F Areas



Karen Webster

Pit Production Operations
and Programs Business
Manager



Gabriela Krans Jimenez

Contracts and Supply
Chain Management Human
Capital Business Analyst



Mike Garrison

Sitewide
Procedure Writer

SRNS

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

Securing nuclear materials to prevent
unwanted proliferation

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

Transforming nuclear materials into assets
and stable wasteforms



Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONSSM