

NOVEMBER 2024

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today

Delivering 2032 together

Partnership critical to SRPPF project completion



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

Storm shelters • TFF Warehouse completion • Veterans Day • Aiken Center for the Arts



Dennis Carr
SRNS President and CEO

On the cover

A Deliver 2032 banner signing ceremony with the Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council was held on Nov. 6. Representatives from the National Nuclear Security Administration, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, Construction Management subcontractor Fluor Federal Services, and other subcontractors supporting the SRPPF project were on hand during the show of support.

Welcome

to the November 2024 edition of

SRNS Today

As we move into another month of progress, I want to recognize the dedication and talent that drives our success at SRNS.

In November, SRNS and Centerra honored veterans by recognizing employees who have served or are currently serving in the military. Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Jim Dawkins and Medal of Honor recipient Ryan M. Pitts joined the ceremony, sharing powerful stories of courage and sacrifice. This tribute underscores our dedication to recruiting veterans and actively supporting veteran-related programs.

SRNS saw operational successes in November, with the opening of the new Tritium Finishing Facility (TFF) Warehouse. The TFF will be used to support the replacement the H Area Old Manufacturing facility and streamline future operations in the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise.

Also in November, SRNS funded the purchase of 30 laptops and a charging station for Aiken County Public School District's Center for Innovative Learning at Pinecrest, enhancing educational opportunities for students with learning disabilities and those needing additional classroom support. Additionally, SRNS strengthened its partnership with the Aiken Center for the Arts through a \$10,000 contribution to support their mission of delivering art education and creative experiences for all ages. These efforts reflect our commitment to investing in the next generation of leaders.

By supporting education and honoring those who serve, we continue to strengthen our workforce and build a brighter future. Thank you for your dedication and passion, which makes SRS an exceptional place to work. Enjoy this month's issue.



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

savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com

COMMON ACRONYMS

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

SRS team replaces essential equipment

SRNS employees again proved their unique capabilities by using ingenuity, teamwork and decades of experience to replace damaged equipment essential to the Site's Fast Critical Assembly (FCA) mission.

While performing startup of the electrolytic dissolver for the FCA mission in H Canyon, employees discovered damaged electrical components and thru-wall connectors, which serve to bring electricity to the dissolver.

"The thru-wall connectors, which were installed in the '60s, are housed inside metallic sleeves that were then grouted into the canyon wall," Lead Project Engineer Chas Shiels said. "To replace them, we had to look at hand drawn blueprints and diagrams to plan for their removal and replacement."

Added to the difficulty of interpreting 60-year-old drawings, was working within the facility itself. Due to the high radiation of the canyon, all work is done either using remote cranes or, in some areas, with employees dressed in personal protective equipment. The canyon is also filled with equipment, like dissolvers, jumpers and piping, which makes for tight working conditions.

To ensure the success of the fabrication and replacement of the components, multiple mock-ups were constructed. Employees from various departments fabricated custom tooling, practiced removing and installing the thru-wall connectors, and worked through challenges encountered along the way.

Pre-planning was essential to the successful execution of the replacement, explained SRNS Maintenance Lead John Charles Lollar. "Personnel protection during the work in the hot areas of the canyon was our highest concern. Pre-planning helped us implement controls, like distance and shielding, for these hazards."

Lollar also applauded the team for staying positive and embracing teamwork.

"I can't say enough about the teamwork involved in achieving this monumental task," he said. "The dedication and hard work of our craft employees to ensure this job was accomplished safely was instrumental to its successful completion. Along with operations, the machine shop did a jam up job of creating



A mock-up of a custom-made thru-wall connector was fabricated on-site and used to practice the operation before it took place inside the canyon.

custom tooling and helping with mockups. We also had the support of procurement, shipping, radiation controls, rigging and more."

Project Operations Lead Mike Baynham explained that SRNS employees are always willing to go the extra mile.

"We appreciated the support of SRNS and DOE executive leadership," he said. "We basically refurbished a dissolver and its electrical components in three months. Many of our employees have been working on this project since April, and we were excited to see the project completed safely and successfully."

The Japan Atomic Energy Agency sent the FCA fuel to SRS in 2016, fulfilling a pledge by Japan and the U.S. to remove all separated plutonium and highly enriched uranium fuel from the FCA reactor in Japan. The fuel is non-aluminum clad, and requires an electrolytic dissolver to process, which adds electricity to the traditional chemical dissolution method, since chemical dissolution does not work on non-aluminum cladding. After FCA is complete, the electrolytic dissolver will be used to dissolve other non-aluminum spent nuclear fuel currently in L Basin.

Meeting future cyber leaders at TechNet

SRNS Safeguards and Security and Enterprise Cyber Security volunteers recently joined forces at the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association (AFCEA) TechNet Conference in Augusta, Georgia—engaging with over 300 students and 40 educators. This annual event, organized by the Cyber Center of Excellence and the Augusta-Fort Gordon Chapter of AFCEA, aims to immerse local students in the latest advancements in STEM and cyber security.

A key feature of this year’s conference was the Future Leaders Pavilion, where industry experts from leading cyber technology companies shared their insights with aspiring young professionals.

“TechNet Augusta gave students the opportunity to examine and explore the intricacies of cyber security and technology,” said Cindy Hewitt, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist. “The engagement from SRNS volunteers not only enriched the students’ experience but also furthered their interest in STEM.”

SRNS Safeguards and Security and Enterprise Cyber Security employees Nakeya Brown, Benjamin Jollie, Andrew Bohman and A.D. Bollig volunteered to facilitate interactive learning activities. The team conducted trivia-style jeopardy games focused on essential cyber concepts, utilizing advanced software to enhance student engagement.

“My favorite part of this event was collaborating with our Cyber Security representatives,” said Bollig. “We hope to continue providing students with valuable information that can help them navigate their career journey. I encourage all SRS employees to get involved and make a difference; one of these students could be a great addition to your team in the future.”

Bohman, who took part in a panel discussion on career pathways in cyber security, expressed his enthusiasm for guiding students through the various routes into the field.



SRNS Safeguards and Security and Enterprise Cyber Security volunteer A.D. Bollig conduct interactive learning activities with attending students during the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association TechNet Conference.

“The Q&A session was particularly rewarding,” he remarked. “We discussed our diverse experiences and shared insights on what we might have done differently with the knowledge we have now.”

According to a news release from Destination Augusta, the 2023 TechNet conference attracted nearly 6,000 attendees, with over half traveling from outside Georgia and South Carolina. It contributed to an estimated \$5.4 million economic impact last year.

“SRNS’ commitment to fostering the next generation of cyber security and technology professionals exemplifies its dedication to community engagement and STEM education,” continued Hewitt. “Our employees continue to volunteer their time to connect with the next generation of future scientists, engineers, cyber and technology professionals.”

NNSA Pit Production Modernization hosts SRPPF Apprentices

Jason Burkhardt and Brooke Samples of the NNSA Office of Pit Production Modernization (NA-191) visited the Site last month and hosted a meet-and-greet event with the newly-onboarded SRPPF apprentices. During the meeting, the group of five apprentices shared their personal stories and gained valuable insight into the Nuclear Security Enterprise and joint SRS-Los Alamos National Laboratory pit production mission.

Leadership from SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs and the SRS Apprentice School, along with Jason Burkhardt and Brooke Samples (pictured third and fourth from left, front row) of the NNSA Office of Pit Production Modernization, attended a Meet and Greet event with the SRPPF Apprentices on Oct. 22.





Aaron Johnson, Senior Vice President—Aecon Nuclear, speaks during an off-site Safety Week celebration for employees supporting the SRPPF Project.

SRPPF construction marks Safety Week with celebration of strong safety culture

Workers supporting construction of the SRPPF at SRS celebrated Safety Week with a special off-site event in October.

SRNS is responsible for the construction of the SRPPF project and subcontracts with multiple companies to deliver the needed infrastructure for the pit production mission at SRS.

Craft employees from multiple subcontractor companies supporting the SRPPF project marked a shared emphasis on safety culture during a celebration held at Perry's Landing in Hephzibah, Georgia, hosted by subcontractor Aecon, on Oct. 9.

"We are celebrating Safety Week now, but keeping safety at the forefront of everything we do every day positively impacts the SRPPF project," said Albert Magley, U.S. Director of Federal Services East, Aecon.

The event included special guest speakers with approximately 350 people in attendance. Attendees received a catered luncheon, lots of door prizes and safety information.

"This is one of the largest construction projects in the nation, and we must promote the utmost attention and focus on safety," said Mike Basham, Senior Vice President of SRPPF Project Execution, SRNS. "As we work to deliver completion of the SRPPF project by 2032, more than 4,000 craft and staff employees are expected to support building this pit production facility at SRS."

Representatives from Fluor Federal Services, the SRPPF Construction Management subcontractor, were also in attendance.

"This is high-hazard work involving complex planning around the construction site," said Gordon Scott, Project Manager, Fluor Federal Services. "Fluor is pleased to support this combined effort with other subcontractors to focus on safety."

The SRPPF complex is being constructed at SRS through the repurposing of an unfinished facility that allows the NNSA to make use of an existing seismically-qualified structure with numerous supporting facilities and existing infrastructure.

"NNSA applauds the strong safety culture of the SRPPF project," said Ben Walker, NNSA SRS Project Management Office Director. "We are pleased to see such a focus on safety as we work to advance this project and establish pit production capability at SRS."



Joint Health and Safety Committee members were recognized during the event.



Federal Projects Director for SPD Disposition and TFF Kevin Buchanan, SRTE Senior Vice President, NNSA Tritium Operations and Programs J.C. Epting and Deputy Field Office Manager, NNSA Savannah River Field Office Jeff Allison join the TFF Project team for a group photo in front of the new warehouse.

SRTE celebrates TFF Warehouse completion

Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) recently conducted a ribbon-cutting celebration to commemorate the opening of the new Tritium Finishing Facility (TFF) Warehouse, which will be used to support the replacement of the H Area Old Manufacturing facility.

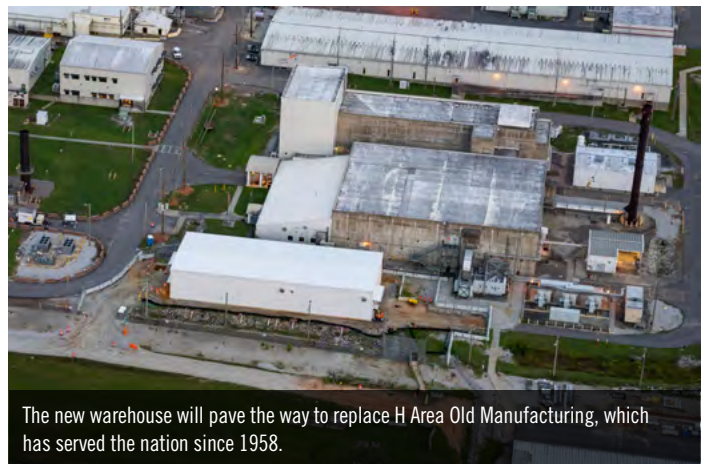
SRTE Senior Vice President, NNSA Tritium Operations and Programs J.C. Epting, along with Deputy Field Office Manager, NNSA Savannah River Field Office Jeff Allison and Federal Projects Director for Surplus Plutonium Disposition and TFF Kevin Buchanan commended the team for achieving a significant operational milestone.

“Tangible steps of progress like this warehouse completion are essential steps on the path toward to completing the TFF project,” said Allison. “This critical modernization will ensure that the NNSA and SRTE remain well-positioned for continued reliable tritium



“SRTE is the only facility in the nation capable of preparing tritium for the nuclear weapons stockpile, and TFF is critical to this enduring mission.”

**J.C. Epting,
SRTE Senior Vice President,
NNSA Operations and Programs**



The new warehouse will pave the way to replace H Area Old Manufacturing, which has served the nation since 1958.

shipments to the nation’s warfighters for decades to come just as the Site has done without fail for more than 70 years.”

The team managed to expedite the work scope six weeks ahead of schedule in order to meet this key milestone. Additionally, they successfully reduced the total project cost by more than \$3 million—keeping it well under budget.

“SRTE is the only facility in the nation capable of preparing tritium for the nuclear weapons stockpile, and TFF is critical to this enduring mission,” said Epting. “This achievement, completed both on time and under budget, reflects SRTE’s commitment to addressing our aging infrastructure and getting the job done.”

The new warehouse will house the materials from two other warehouses scheduled to be demolished, which lie in the footprint of the future TFF process buildings.

“The completion of the TFF Site Prep showcases our ability to successfully manage a project, keeping it under budget and ahead of schedule,” said Buchanan. “This TFF Project Team has done an outstanding job on making significant efforts to achieve this milestone.”

Site sees TRU success in FY24



TRU drum storage in the Solid Waste Management Facility in 1998 before WIPP opened (left) and in 2024 (right).

The SRS Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF) saw a large reduction of transuranic (TRU) waste in fiscal year 2024 (FY24), achieving the highest volume of TRU waste shipped out of state by the facility in the past 10 years.

SWMF is responsible for the disposition of SRS' solid wastes, which include sanitary, construction and demolition, hazardous, low-level radioactive and TRU wastes. Hazardous waste is routinely shipped off-site to commercial facilities for treatment and disposal. This includes TRU waste, which is shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico for permanent disposition.

"WIPP opened in 1999, but SRS started managing radioactive waste when the Site began operations in the 50s," said SRNS Solid Waste Programs Manager Kerri Crawford. "When WIPP opened, we started shipping TRU waste as fast as the WIPP receipt schedule allowed. Meanwhile, we were also receiving new TRU waste from ongoing operations that had to wait for its scheduled shipment dates. When

WIPP experienced an unplanned shut down, we hadn't finishing shipments of our backlog of legacy TRU waste. Working closely with WIPP, we were able to make significant progress on that backlog over the past 10 years."

During that time, SWMF reduced the total volume of TRU waste at the facility by 66%, from approximately 746 cubic meters to 256 cubic meters. In FY24, the facility shipped the highest volume of TRU to WIPP compared to the prior 10 years, with 150 cubic meters shipped.

"SRNS is committed to making the world safer, which involves ensuring that transuranic waste is properly handled, stored and dispositioned," said Dennis Carr. "This past year's accomplishments are a testament to this commitment and to the hard work and collaboration between WIPP and SRNS."

TRU waste typically consists of protective clothing, tools, rags, equipment and miscellaneous items contaminated with small amounts of plutonium and other heavy elements.

Storm shelters enhance SRS emergency preparedness

SRNS Emergency Management is actively procuring and placing portable storm shelters across the Site, offering protection to employees in the event of a natural disaster or severe weather.

With unpredictable weather patterns, as shown through the devastation of Hurricane Helene, the Site continues to ensure the safety of its workers. The SRS N Area recently received two storm shelters and F Area received four storm shelters, with four more scheduled for delivery by the end of the year. Personnel on-site during Hurricane Helene utilized these shelters, demonstrating their effectiveness in providing protection during extreme weather events.

According to SRNS Emergency Management Specialist, Ben Baynham, "Some of the deciding factors for the shelters' locations consist of available space, power, estimated amount of personnel and accessibility. These shelters were placed in areas of need and can be utilized by anyone during an emergency."

Purchased from B-Safe Industries, Inc., the shelters are compliant with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, as well

as handicap accessible. They are 10 feet tall, 64 feet long and 8 feet wide; holding a maximum capacity of 200 people; and resisting 250 mph winds. Inside, the shelters are equipped with bench seating, a private restroom with handrails and high lumen solar powered lighting with a five-hour battery backup.

"The purchase of these shelters is to protect our workforces supporting the SRPPF Project and is in line with the safety culture of the Site," said Bryan Atkinson, SRNS Area Manager for the SRPPF Project. "Strategically placing the shelters in our work areas will give our employees who may be working in modular facilities a safe location to protect themselves from potentially unfavorable weather conditions."

Every four years, SRS is recertified as a National Weather Service StormReady community, demonstrating that through advanced planning, education and awareness, SRS is prepared to save lives in the event of a severe weather emergency. This certification was last received in 2022 and remains valid through November 2026.

DELIVER 2032



SRNS leaders signed the Deliver 2032 banner, symbolizing the Site's commitment to SRPPF project completion. The banner will be displayed in the SRPPF craft area on-site.

Commitment to SRPPF project completion on display

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP to complete construction of the SRPPF at SRS, in support of enduring and sustainable nuclear deterrence, was on display during a Deliver 2032 banner signing ceremony with the Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council on Nov. 6.

Representatives from the NNSA, SRNS, Construction Management subcontractor Fluor Federal Services and other subcontractors supporting the SRPPF project were on hand during the show of support as leaders with the Trades Council signed a Deliver 2032 banner at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union hall in downtown Augusta.

“As the NNSA invests in modernizing our nation’s essential infrastructure supporting the Nuclear Security Enterprise, SRS must deliver the SRPPF project by 2032,” said Dennis Carr. “Shifts in our global nuclear landscape have made SRS a key player in strengthening the nuclear deterrent to keep our nation, partners and allies safe. Now, more than ever, our nation’s nuclear posture must remain strong and resilient. Skilled trades workers are essential to reaching our milestones on our path to pit production, and I appreciate you being here today.”

The construction of the SRPPF complex is one of the largest infrastructure projects happening in the nation. In 2022, SRNS signed a Project Labor Agreement with the Trades Council in support of workforce needs. More than 4,000 craft and staff employees are expected to support construction during the life of the project.

“The Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council has supported the Savannah River Site and its mission for decades,” said Jeff Britt, president of the Trades Council. “Our local union leaders are here today to sign this banner and show their continued support and dedication to this important project.”

Also signing the banner after the union reps were leaders from NNSA, SRNS, Fluor and other subcontractors supporting the project. The signed banner symbolizing the Site’s commitment to project completion will be displayed in the SRPPF craft area on-site.

The SRPPF complex is being constructed 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.

Once construction is complete, SRPPF will support the U.S. nuclear stockpile by producing plutonium pits, which are components in a nuclear weapon. NNSA will manufacture plutonium pits at the quantities needed to support military requirements using a two-site strategy. SRPPF will provide robust, large-scale production of plutonium pits in strategic resiliency with the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

“We’re excited that a new front of construction is beginning with the SRPPF project,” said Siva Nadarajah, Fluor deputy project director. “But for the purpose of today’s ceremony, I suggest that the principle of teamwork is on ample display. With teamwork, collaboration and transparency, we will deliver in 2032.”

SRNS IDEAS Program announces 2024 winners

The SRNS IDEAS (Individuals Developing Effective Alternative Solutions) Program recently announced the 2024 winners for the annual risk and productivity streamlining contest. Since 1998, the nationally recognized program has implemented ideas that improve safety, process and productivity, and cost savings/avoidances at SRS.

“SRNS has transformed many of its day-to-day operations by implementing employee suggestions,” said Blake Leaphart, SRNS Lead Continuous Improvement Specialist. “This fiscal year, over 225 implemented ideas have streamlined various work processes and generated over \$6.1 million in savings—an increase of over \$4.9 million from the previous fiscal year.”

The top three submissions were awarded monetary prizes, with first place receiving \$1,000; second place, \$750; and third place, \$500.



2024 SRNS IDEAS Program contest winners Griffin Bethle, David Ryberg and Eric Fogt.



SRNS Lead Continuous Improvement Specialist Blake Leaphart, left, and Dennis Carr, right, present a \$1,000 check to first place winner Eric Fogt.

1 FIRST PLACE Eric Fogt

This year’s first place winner was SRNS Health Physicist Eric Fogt with his 3D Safety Jig idea that created a safe, efficient, and precise way for SRNS Health Physics Services (HPS) to calibrate and wrap radiological instruments in plastic to prevent contamination in the field.

According to Fogt, facility personnel usually cut areas of each probe using a retractable razor knife, cut resistant gloves and a “steady hand.”

“Even with personal protective equipment and human performance improvement tools, we identified a potential risk to employees performing this task,” Fogt said. “To combat this, I worked with SRNS HPS engineers to develop a 3D printed plastic jig that fits over the face of the instrument’s probe—preventing the retractable blade from slipping, causing injury, or damaging the surface of the probe.”

2 SECOND PLACE David Ryberg

David Ryberg, SRNS Control Room Specialist, received second place for his Cylinder Unloading Efficiency Improvement idea. Traditionally, Site personnel unloaded cylinders and stored the content in a mix tank. After storing the mixture, the gas would then be processed through a diffuser system which took several cycles and up to six weeks to complete. Ryberg’s idea, s to unload the cylinders in H Area New Manufacturing, reduced the time it took to unload each cylinder—creating a validated savings of over \$40,000 with no additional risk to Site missions.

3 THIRD PLACE Griffin Bethle

In third place, was SRNS Mechanical Engineer Lead Griffin Bethle’s Cooling Water Blank idea with a validated savings of over \$242,000. H Canyon’s 10-year cooling water blank inspection involved 82 blanks that needed to be removed for thickness inspection. The inspection involved multiple work groups, significant labor hours and high material costs.

“I was able to determine that 55 out of the 82 blanks could be downgraded and performed a Functional Classification Downgrade document to downgrade the blanks from safety class to general service,” said Bethle. “This document was approved, and the blanks were downgraded and no longer part of the inspection.”

“This was a record year for SRNS and the IDEAS program,” said Perjetta “PK” Hightower, SRNS Director of Interface Management and Continuous Improvement. “Each winner is invested in the well-being of SRS, our missions, and their fellow coworkers. Finding new ways to improve daily operations is something we are proud to celebrate.”

MTC tour emphasizes technical training

A group of 12 students and faculty from Edisto High School, located in Orangeburg County, South Carolina, recently toured SRS, gaining insight into potential career opportunities and Site mission areas.

During the visit, participants also learned more about internship positions and the SRS Apprenticeship School. Afterwards, the group toured the Machining Training Center (MTC), a newly-opened training facility used for developing operator competency to support a variety of Site missions, including NNSA missions.

“We always appreciate the opportunity to highlight our workforce needs, especially the growing number of technical positions that will be required to support missions across the Site,” said Rick Nash, MTC Operations. “Working with our local middle and high schools and universities is crucial to establishing the technical and employment pipeline necessary for operating our facilities, particularly those related to our NNSA defense missions.”

Jasmine Brown, an Edisto High School sophomore, said she was excited to see some of the concepts from her Honors Chemistry class come to life during the MTC tour. “I’ve really enjoyed it,” she said. “We’ve been learning about things like precise measurements and chemical bonds, so to see that in action was really interesting. It seems like there are a lot of good opportunities here at the Site. I could see myself going into Mechanical Engineering, which is something I hadn’t really thought about until today.”

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**Rick Nash,
MTC Operations**

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Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach Programs Lead, organized the visit. Mitchell said she welcomes the opportunity to showcase all that SRS has to offer for students and workforce development organizations.

“It’s so important for the Site to engage students from our local area and beyond,” said Mitchell. “Some of our primary missions at SRS are long-term, enduring operations that will require technical positions for decades to come. We’re going to need young, energetic, motivated and qualified students like these to fill those positions. They are the key to our future success as a Site.”



Rick Nash, MTC Operations, provides an overview of the Machining Training Center to Edisto High School students during an Education Outreach event, held Oct. 30.

Equipment procurement solidifies partnership with local HBCU

The Site continues to reinforce partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in South Carolina, in support of the Site's pit production mission.

SRNS recently supported procurement of a Focused Ion Beam Scanning Electron Microscope (FIB-SEM) to be housed on the campus of Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina. The microscope will be used by both Allen University students and SRNS staff, to advance the pit production mission required to strengthen the nation's nuclear stockpile.

These efforts are part of the SRNS Workforce Development Program Plan initiative to engage colleges, universities, high schools and community groups in developing and establishing a qualified workforce capable of operating the SRPPF at SRS. Funding for the FIB-SEM was earmarked for Minority Serving Institutions by the U.S. Congress through special workforce development funding.

To help address SRPPF staffing needs, SRNS has spent the last several years establishing relationships with eight South Carolina HBCUs, focusing on workforce development and training. Allen University was selected for this specific partnership due to their close proximity to the Site and strong programs in fundamental science and math.

"Installation of the FIB-SEM at Allen University will enable students to use state-of-the-art equipment, similar to equipment commonly used at doctoral, high-research-activity universities," said James Maner, SRNS Technical Lead for Material Characterization Laboratory. "The FIB-SEM at Allen University will allow the SRNS technical staff to begin method development for future operations."

The FIB-SEM will be used for providing 3D characterization of materials at the micrometer scale. Installation, testing and training on the microscope, one of a select few instruments of its kind housed at small HBCUs in the Southeast, will take place at Allen University throughout the next year. SRNS technical staff will support the installation and testing phase of the new equipment and will complete the training phase of the project, working in tandem with university faculty and students.

"Acquisition of the FIB-SEM for joint utilization by Allen University and SRNS affords students and faculty the distinct opportunity to collaborate with industry experts in high-demand fields such as environmental science, nuclear energy and sustainability," said Oluwole Ariyo, Allen University Dean for Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. "This not only enhances the student learning experiences but also opens a direct pipeline to workforce development, ensuring that students from the integrated program will be well-prepared



"Installation of the FIB-SEM at Allen University will enable students to use state-of-the-art equipment, similar to equipment commonly used at doctoral, high-research-activity universities."

James Maner,
SRNS Technical Lead
for Material Characterization Laboratory



to excel in today's job market and have potential to lead and innovate in a wide range of careers at SRPPF."

Upon reaching steady-state operations, it is estimated that SRPPF will require more than 2,000 full-time positions.

"SRNS will work directly with Allen University to develop student capstone projects using the new equipment," said Maner. "This represents a great opportunity for students to expand existing skillsets and build competency development, in support of our long-term pit production mission. Allen University is an ideal partner to establish a staffing pipeline and address select research needs."



Thanks to SRNS support, a Focused Ion Beam Scanning Electron Microscope will be housed on the campus of Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina.



The SRNS-sponsored laptops and charging station will support over 350 students in the mathematics department at the Center for Innovative Learning at Pinecrest.

SRNS donates \$20,000 for technology in school

SRNS recently provided a \$20,000 sponsorship to Aiken County Public School District's Center for Innovative Learning (CIL) at Pinecrest.

This contribution will fund the purchase of 30 laptops and a charging station to support the CIL mathematics department—enhancing educational opportunities for students with learning disabilities and those requiring additional support outside of the traditional classroom setting.

Khaleelah Stroman, CIL Middle Level Mathematics Educator, is enthusiastic about integrating the new equipment into her teaching strategy and aims to utilize virtual manipulatives to improve students' conceptual understanding of math standards.

"Learning and being able to apply mathematics is crucial for student success," said Stroman. "Many educators are using virtual manipulatives for concrete representation of concepts, addressing math standards and enhancing students' conceptual understanding."

The new equipment will provide access to an array of engaging online resources such as Math Nation, Illustrative Math, Desmos, Aleks, Kahoot and Quizlet. These tools are essential for creating interactive and individualized learning experiences that cater to students' unique needs.

Previously, CIL's eight middle and high school educators had to share a limited number of laptops—impacting their ability to fully grasp students' mastery of specific math standards.

"The laptops will significantly alleviate our limitations, allowing us to use online lecture videos, assessments and educational games more effectively," said Sandra Smith, CIL High School Mathematics Educator. "This sponsorship will benefit at least 350 students annually and is an amazing contribution to our department."

"We are thrilled to support the Center for Innovative Learning at Pinecrest in providing tailored and meaningful educational experiences to students who need it most," said Dennis Carr. "SRNS continues to invest in programs that foster learning and growth in science, technology, engineering and math. We believe that access to modern technology is crucial for educational advancement in STEM and we are excited to see the positive impact this has on student learning."

SRNS fuels creativity with Aiken Center for the Arts donation

SRNS is a long-standing supporter of the Aiken Center for the Arts (ACA), contributing \$122,000 over the years to help continue their mission of providing the community with art education and creative experiences for all ages.

The ACA fosters partnerships with organizations such as SRNS to create greater access to the arts in Aiken, South Carolina. This year, SRNS donated \$10,000 to further their goal of expanding an inclusive culture through the arts.

"As a leader in our community, SRNS has demonstrated its commitment to protecting the public health and the environment as well as meeting the needs of the people in Aiken County and surrounding areas," said ACA Executive Director, Caroline Gwinn. "We greatly appreciate their support as an executive partner; sponsorships help our organization offer programs at little or no cost to the public and aid individuals in need of financial assistance."

Educational art and music programs including camps, classes and workshops are provided through ACA for those ages five and up, along with courses directed towards helping those with special needs. Hosting over 48,000 visits annually, the ACA encourages community by offering diverse opportunities for locals to express their creativity.

"We are proud to support the Aiken Center for the Arts and all of the programs that the center brings to our community," said SRNS Corporate Communications Deputy Director and ACA Board Member Barbara Smoak. "We applaud the diversity of programs offered and truly believe that ACA provides access to an improved quality of life and makes our community stronger."

"Working alongside other community organizations and individuals in a spirit of collaboration, the Aiken Center for the Arts hopes the culminating impact of our efforts will develop a greater sense of community and wellbeing through art," continued Gwinn. "We are honored for Savannah River Nuclear Solutions to, again, be a part of that experience."

To learn more about the Aiken Center for the Arts, their programs and how to get involved, visit: <https://aikencenterforthearts.org/>.



SRNS Corporate Communications Deputy Director and ACA Board Member Barbara Smoak (right) presents a check for \$10,000 to ACA Executive Director Caroline Gwinn (left).

SRNS and Centerra honor veterans

During a Veterans Day recognition event at the Site, SRNS and Centerra paid tribute to their brave employees who have served or currently serve in the military.

SRNS Executive Vice President and NNSA Chief Operations Officer and retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Jim Dawkins opened the ceremony with words of gratitude and respect. The event continued with the singing of the national anthem by Centerra-SRS Special Response Team member Jamie Johnson followed by an Armed Forces Salute to honor each branch of the military.

During the event, Army Staff Sgt. and Medal of Honor Recipient Ryan M. Pitts recalled his remarkable story of courage and sacrifice that led him to receiving the highest award that the government can bestow upon a member of the U.S. Armed Forces for valor in combat.

During his second deployment to Afghanistan, his unit of 48 service members came under attack by 200 anti-Afghan forces in Kunar Province. Pitts received grenade shrapnel in his left arm and both legs but while severely injured returned to his position to defend his unit from enemy fire and encroachment. For his heroism, Pitts received the Medal of Honor on July 21, 2014. He departed active duty in 2009.

Pitts expressed his deep admiration for SRS, in that veterans are continuing their service by ensuring future national security.

"I appreciated the opportunity to recognize the military service of the SRS veterans who continue to ensure our national security," said Pitts.

Both SRNS and Centerra place tremendous value on recruiting and hiring veterans; and they actively support veteran-related programs.

SRNS participates in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce foundation's Hiring our Heroes program that helps companies hire active-duty members of the U.S. military who are transitioning out of service.

In addition, SRNS recently implemented the Disabled Veteran Enhanced Opportunities initiative that gives individuals who identify as a disabled veterans and who meet the basic job qualifications a greater chance at an interview selection.



SRS Special Response Team member Jamie Johnson performed the national anthem during the SRNS and Centerra Veterans Day recognition event.

"Today, we honor and celebrate the incredible contributions of our veteran employees," said Dennis Carr. "We take great pride in hiring veterans, knowing that their skills, discipline and leadership qualities are invaluable assets to our team. We thank them for their service and for continuing to make a difference at SRNS."

Centerra has a long history of supporting veterans. They work closely with military transition offices at multiple military bases. Their recruiting efforts have been recognized by numerous organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, for their strong commitment to hiring veterans.

"Within Centerra, over half of our employees are military veterans and they do an excellent job protecting SRS," said Centerra-SRS General Manager Mark Bolton. "I thank all veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice."



NNSA Operations and Programs Senior Vice President J.C. Epting (third from left) poses with SRTE team members and veterans who spoke during the SRTE Veterans Day Ceremony.

SRTE honors veterans during ceremony

Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) honored its veterans during a special ceremony on Monday, Nov. 11. NNSA Operations and Programs Senior Vice President J.C. Epting, an Air Force Veteran, expressed his gratitude to the veterans and families of veterans that support SRTE.

During the ceremony, an employee representing each military branch was introduced to the sound of their branch's anthem to share what their service meant to them, and what it means to continue to serve in support of SRTE's mission. The event concluded with an emotional video recognizing SRTE families that included veterans.



James Rowell

AT SRNS: Environmental Compliance & Area Completion Projects (EC&ACP) Field and Programs Support Manager

IN THE COMMUNITY: 2025 AMP President

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

James Rowell serves as Environmental Compliance & Area Completion Projects (EC&ACP) Field and Programs Support Manager. His duties include managing the programs that support the missions EC&ACP is tasked with completing. This includes the training coordinator, fire protection coordinator, chemical coordinator, critical spare parts program and many others ensuring the group's success.

Rowell is a U.S. Army veteran who served for nine years. He holds an associate degree in applied technologies, a bachelor's degree in organizational management, and a master's degree in organizational management specialized in human resources management from Ashford University.

He has worked at SRS for 14 years, where he started as a Maintenance Mechanic, then worked in K Area operations as a First-Line Manager. He moved to Site Services as a facilities administrator and took a rotational assignment as a security rep for H Canyon that became permanent before accepting his current role.

"I have had the privilege to work in almost every area of the Site in some fashion or another. The flexibility the Site offers for work scope and ability to move between jobs within the same company to expand your knowledge and experience provides endless career opportunities."

Rowell is serving as President of the Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP) on 2025; and he looks forward to what the steering committee will plan for professional development for the AMP community and outreach events.

Originally born in Augusta, Georgia, Rowell was raised in Beech Island, South Carolina, and now lives in Aiken with his wife Cindy. They have three adult children, two granddaughters and three dogs. Outside of work, he enjoys fishing, hunting, vacationing with family and friends. He also likes relaxing with a good cigar and a neat drink.

Leveraging Veteran-owned supplier talent

On Nov. 7, SRNS received the 'Champion Award' from the National Veteran Small Business Coalition (NVSBC) for meeting or exceeding goals established for subcontracting to service-disabled and/or veteran owned small businesses (SD/VOSBs) in fiscal year (FY) 2023.

"This recognition marks the sixth prestigious award in the past two years for exemplary procurement practices and commitment to small business," said Jay Johnson, SRNS Deputy Senior Vice President of Business Services. "This would not be possible without the great leadership and outreach efforts from our small business programs to secure high performing small businesses."

For over a decade, the NVSBC award has recognized federal agencies and large business prime contractors who have met or exceeded SD/VOSB and/or VOSB contract award goals. Recently, goals were increased from 3 to 5%.

"Our veterans have made profound sacrifices in defense of our nation," continued Johnson. "At SRNS we are deeply honored to provide them with the opportunity to serve our country once again, this time as business owners. The discipline, operational excellence, and commitment to mission success that they developed in uniform are



invaluable assets to our workforce and our national security."

SRNS Supply Chain Small Business Liaison Officer Lisa Tanner and SRNS Procurement Candyse Edwards accepted the award on behalf of SRNS during the third annual Veteran Small Business Advocate Awards Gala in Falls Church, Virginia.

"The opening remarks of the ceremony—veterans mean business—truly struck a chord with me," said Edwards, who awarded nearly \$29 million in procurement to VOSBs in FY24. "It's incredibly rewarding to be part of a team that can harness the exceptional talent of veteran-owned businesses to drive our missions forward."

SRNS continues to assist small businesses navigating contract award processes. As a result, in FY24, SRNS awarded \$141 million to SD/VOSBs, exceeding the FY goal by 8.7%.

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



Daryl Butler Jr.
Radiological Protector



Logan Mauldin
Lead HR Business
Partner–SRTE



Chris McLaughlin
Product Engineering
Manager



Alexis Berry
Technical Editor

SRNS

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

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

Securing nuclear materials to prevent unwanted proliferation

Transforming nuclear materials into assets and stable wasteforms



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