

● JANUARY 2021

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today



All aboard

See the Site from the comfort of your home in this virtual tour

This month

Cleanup milestones • Supporting small, minority-owned businesses • \$12.7M in cost savings



Welcome to the January 2021 edition of SRNS Today

Stuart MacVean
SRNS President and CEO

January has provided many opportunities for our employees to be distracted. Through it all, as always, SRNS employees have stayed committed, focused and able to deliver on our commitments.

On the cover

Bob Bonnett of SRNS, the SRS Tour Program Coordinator, leads the way during the "Get on the Bus –Virtual Tour."

We continue to remain flexible and to answer the ever-changing challenges presented by COVID-19. The SRS Infectious Disease Response Team launched an on-site COVID-19 rapid testing center in November, which has been voluntarily utilized by 406 employees. This is in addition to the independent testing through a previously launched partnership with Augusta University Health.

We accomplished significant environmental cleanup milestones, helping to bring legacy facilities in the Site's F Area close to deactivation and completing a soil and groundwater cleanup project in A Area. Our commitment to small and minority-owned businesses was reaffirmed through the company's nomination as National Minority Supplier Development Council's Corporation of the Year in our class and the receipt of the George Lottier Rising Star Award from the Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council. SRNS also continued our community outreach efforts by creating a new virtual public tour, available at www.srs.gov.

SRNS employees are invaluable to our community, our state, and our country. We prove day after day, and month after month, that we stand ready to tackle new and evolving missions and challenges.

I hope you enjoy this issue of SRNS Today.



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell. Since August 2008, SRNS has been the management and operating contractor for the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy-owned site near Aiken, South Carolina, including the Savannah River National Laboratory. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken, S.C. 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.

www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com

Exemplary cleanup at SRS

Despite the significant impacts of COVID-19, SRNS completed six major environmental cleanup projects and two smaller projects at Savannah River Site (SRS) in 2020.

"The fact that we were recognized by the Department of Energy (DOE) with the prestigious Project Management Excellence Award in July speaks volumes in and of itself," said Stuart MacVean. "This award, combined with the safe and successful completion of multiple cleanup projects this year, reflects the priority and importance we place on environmental remediation at SRS. In addition, all this was accomplished while overcoming the issues and obstacles presented by the pandemic."

The DOE award was presented for consolidating more than 400,000 cubic yards of coal ash, fully capped under geosynthetic material and a thick earthen cover. The vast project was completed more than a year ahead of schedule, with a cost savings of \$9 million.

The major environmental cleanup projects completed in 2020 include:

- Demolition of a large radiologically contaminated building built during the Cold War
- Construction of an underground wall made of recycled iron filings that naturally treats Cold War-era chemicals as contaminated groundwater flows through the structure
- Remediation of a 12-acre coal storage yard by mixing 1,000 tons of naturally occurring limestone into the soils to neutralize the acidic soils below
- Demolition of radioactively contaminated structures, known as "Treblers," formerly used to measure the flow of hazardous wastewater and obtain sample data
- Remediation of a multi-acre pond-like basin built during the Cold War by placing a protective cover to safely secure any remaining contaminated soil

"We have a talented and resourceful workforce at SRNS who prove time and again they have what it takes to get the job done safely and efficiently, often ahead of schedule and under budget," said MacVean. "I'm looking forward to our cleanup accomplishments in 2021."



Workers mixed more than a million pounds of iron filings with a food-grade, starch-like material, shown here. The material was injected into 22 wells at SRS to create a long and continuous iron wall that acts as a giant metal filter of contaminated groundwater.



Engineers Will Jolin, John Bradley and Joao Cardoso-Neto discuss a plan to move equipment (background, Remote Facility Operator Richie Andrews).

SRS project moves from cleanup to closure

Nineteen soil remediation units at SRS will soon have their solar power "plugs" removed, resulting in an annual cost savings of \$90,000 a year, as the need for these remediation systems has come to an end at the A-Area Rubble Pile soil and groundwater cleanup project.

SRNS has completed this project involving an earthen pit that was developed in the 1950s to dispose of nonradioactive construction debris, ash and liquid cleaning products. Nineteen systems were installed to "vacuum" low concentrations of commonly used degreasing solvents from the soil below. Recent soil sampling demonstrated that the solvents no longer pose a potential threat to the environment cleanup, according to Will Jolin, SRNS Engineer.

"Early cleanup at this location concentrated on using aggressive methods to remove the contaminants from the subsurface and prevent them from migrating to the groundwater," said Joao Cardoso-Neto, SRNS Project Manager. Cardoso-Neto noted that these cleanup technologies required the use of large electric pumps, support facilities and monitoring equipment.

Over the years, this highly mechanized and costly method has removed large quantities of solvent; however, SRNS has transitioned to more environmentally-friendly passive microblowers.

Microblowers generate a natural vacuum to exhaust the chemical vapors. Each unit requires only 20 to 40 watts of solar power to run its primary component, a compact, high-speed fan. During a 10-month test, a single unit removed 234 pounds of solvent compounds from the subsurface.

The 19 microblower units have succeeded in removing the remaining trace amounts of solvent, within limits set by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Approximately 1.5 acres were impacted by this cleanup and closure project near a part of the Site designated as A Area.

"With the closure of this project, we can shift the resources, such as solar panels, to other areas at SRS that still require remediation," said John Bradley, SRNS Engineer.



Maintenance technicians Robert Cartwright and Erik Ruggiero prepare to test a molded case electrical circuit breaker.

\$12.7M saved during cost saving challenge

Over the last fiscal year, SRNS was tasked by DOE to find \$12.5 million in cost savings and reinvest it towards improving processes, programs and infrastructure across SRNS. SRNS met the challenge and surpassed that goal, achieving \$12.7 million in hard dollar savings.

SRNS Continuous Improvement Manager P. K. Hightower credited the success of this financial achievement to a highly effective partnership between SRNS Continuous Improvement personnel and the affected organizations, supported by DOE guidance.

“The results were achieved through impressive continuous improvement and streamlining initiatives received from a diverse set of organizations throughout our company,” said Hightower. “The workgroups who submitted the cost saving recommendations strived to ensure they were implemented promptly and optimally.”

SRNS Director of Business Planning and Integration Freddie Grimm explained that a significant percentage of the savings can be attributed to process efficiencies.

“The icing on the cake has been our employees’ ability to insightfully examine how we do business and then evaluate potential improvements, often from a completely different perspective. This has resulted time and again with new ways to efficiently and effectively streamline processes and procedures, leading to major cost savings.”

Grimm also noted that more than \$4 million in savings resulted from the innovative use of existing parts, which avoided the purchase of new equipment and materials.

“The wisdom and creativity displayed, combined with the practical reutilization of existing resources, has been inspiring,” said Grimm.

According to Grimm, a fresh approach to reaching employees to emphasize the importance of the Site’s IDEAS suggestion program was planned, developed and implemented throughout the year. “Using imaginative and often humorous marketing initiatives created a surge in the growth of this program, which helped ensure our success towards meeting the cost savings challenge,” he added.

Significant monetary savings were also gained in areas that included a cybersecurity lab equipped from existing SRNS equipment and the increased effectiveness of passive groundwater cleanup technology obtained through solar power.

“I think it speaks well of SRNS that we’re showing our DOE customers that we’re good stewards, striving to perform more work scope with less funding,” said Hightower.

New fire trucks for the fleet

In an effort to continuously improve SRS infrastructure, the SRS Fire Department (SRSFD) recently purchased a 2020 Pierce Saber fire engine to replace the old Engine 3. This addition rounds out the replacement of several emergency response vehicles, including replacing two other Pierce Saber engines and an aerial truck.

Pierce Saber engines are equipped with the newest safety and industry technology, including the capability to flow more than 1,500 gallons per minute, exterior door handles that are ergonomically designed for a firefighter’s gloved hand, and a maximum 50 degree cramp angle and 15 degree angle of approach, for improved maneuverability in tight areas and challenging situations. This newer model reduces the amount of time it takes to respond to an emergency, and the upkeep costs will be relatively low compared to previous models, as it will experience fewer maintenance problems.

The purchase of this new engine is integral to the fleet replacement project, a decade-long initiative to upgrade and standardize the SRSFD fleet.

“In a critical situation where every second counts, it is vital that SRS firefighters respond quickly and efficiently,” said Rob Still, SRSFD Chief. “We are working to standardize the fleet so that no matter which vehicle is in use, or where a responder is located, there are personnel who are trained and proficient in operating the equipment.”

The project began in 2012 with the purchase of two new fire engines, and several ambulances have been remounted since then. Additionally, SRSFD has added a new vehicle to their fleet every year since 2017. As a result, most of the fleet is less than 10 years old.

These purchases will increase the safety of more than just SRS employees. SRS has seven mutual aid agreements with surrounding counties, and the SRSFD responds to around 7-10 mutual aid calls per year.

The SRSFD is scheduled to receive a heavy rescue truck and a hazardous material truck in the next few years to further enhance the fleet.



SRSFD has spent the past decade replacing and updating the emergency response fleet to better improve the safety of SRS and surrounding communities.

'Get on the Bus' Virtual Tour

Look beyond the barricades

You can now tour SRS from the comfort of your home, thanks to a video newly created by SRNS Video Services. The video can be seen on www.srs.gov and the SRS YouTube channel.

SRS public tours are usually booked months in advance, and each year the SRS Tour Program typically provides free, guided bus tours of the sprawling 310 square-mile site to approximately 2,000 visitors. But with social distancing limiting tour bus group sizes, DOE decided to develop this new approach.

Based on the driving tour of SRS, the virtual ride incorporates historical footage of the Site's construction along with glimpses inside many production facilities and environmental cleanup efforts, plus scenes from the diverse work at the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) and Savannah River Ecology Laboratory.

"We've seen so much of our world change and adapt to this pandemic, so this is an innovative way for us to continue telling our story," says DOE Savannah River Operations Manager Mike Budney. "As SRS celebrates 70 years of protecting our nation, this virtual tour gives our surrounding communities a new window into our history, our current missions and our talented workforce."

The SRS Virtual Tour is one of many online materials available at www.srs.gov. A variety of other videos on SRS operations, history and more can be found on the SRS YouTube channel. Please check <https://www.srs.gov/general/tour/index.htm> for SRS Tour Program updates and future scheduling of public tours.



Images were taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.



WATCH THE VIDEO:

Go to srs.gov or <https://youtu.be/XyKm9Sk3LB8>

Supporting small and minority-owned businesses



Employees from SRNS mentor protégé company Strativia assist SRS employees with computer issues. Help Desk Technician Jeremy Collins (left), is assisted by SRS help desk Manager Kyle Olds with a call.

Nominated for Corporation of the Year award

Ongoing, in-depth support to small and minority-owned businesses has led to the nomination of SRNS as the National Minority Supplier Development Council's Corporation of the Year, Class I.

Only a small number of companies were nominated for this national honor, each representing organizations of a similar size in five different classes. SRNS was nominated along with such recognizable corporations as Microsoft, CVS, Toyota, Johnson & Johnson and the Walt Disney Company.

"Though we were not named the winner in our class, being nominated for this prestigious award clearly places SRNS in the discussion for the best supplier development program in the nation," said Alex Agyemang, SRNS Small Business Liaison Officer.

This achievement, combined with the fact that over the last four years SRNS has committed \$1 billion to small businesses, validates the strength of SRNS procurement policies related to supporting and growing small businesses. Contract to date, this innovative program has received 17 awards, with 15 of these recognitions coming in the last three years.

"Because we're so specialized in our industry, this honor gives SRNS, the Site and DOE an increased level of visibility. This will help draw the best of the best small business suppliers to us," said Agyemang. "SRNS didn't exist to corporations like Bank of America, UPS or Walt Disney three or four years ago, and now, we're a nominee for this prestigious award."

Received Spirit of Alliance Award

SRNS recently received the George Lottier Rising Star Award during the Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council (GMSDC) 2020 Spirit of Alliance Awards ceremony.

Through the Spirit of Alliance Awards, the GMSDC honors individuals, small businesses, corporate and government entities for their contributions to supplier diversity and minority business development in the state. The nominees and winners represent the best and brightest business minds, who are ongoing advocates of progressive minority supplier development in Georgia.

"The George Lottier Rising Star Award is given to the company with the most promising supplier development program. A program that is relatively new and rapidly growing," said Alex Agyemang, SRNS Small Business Liaison Officer. "When compared to larger established companies such as Coca-Cola, UPS, Delta and Lockheed-Martin, we have seen tremendous results."

Agyemang added that receiving this award from the GMSDC was particularly meaningful, considering that this organization had been named the National Minority Supplier Development Council's Council of the Year in 2019.

"To have received this recognition from the GMSDC is extremely gratifying. It says we are executing our vision well, and we are on track to truly make an impact in the supplier diversity community. Achieving this award speaks volumes," he said.

Agyemang is grateful for the ongoing support of the SRNS executive team and the buyers who place the orders. Their support made it possible for SRNS to win multiple awards over the past three years.

"Really, more than anything else, this award – and the recognition it provides – demonstrates how committed we are to our suppliers and ensuring their success as we deliver Site missions," said Agyemang. "The best suppliers of products and services are the most sought after, and for good reason. Companies now compete on the strength of their supply chains, and a strong supplier network has truly become a competitive advantage. We want to position SRNS to be the company of choice for the best suppliers, and I believe we're consistently developing that level of recognition and reputation."

"Our procurement professionals get to leverage this competitive advantage every time they execute a purchase order or subcontract," he added.



Reducing the footprint in F Area

SRNS has made significant progress in decommissioning the legacy facilities in an area of the Site known as F Area with recent work completed in Building 235-F and the F/H Analytical Laboratory.

"The entirety of legacy facilities in F Area are expected to be placed in surveillance and maintenance mode by 2024," said Stuart MacVean. "Along with F Canyon, which was partially deactivated before SRNS took over the prime contract, closing down these two additional facilities will make a big impact on reducing our operational footprint."



Aerial view of F Area. Building 235-F is highlighted in yellow, the F/H Analytical Laboratory facilities in orange and F Canyon/FB Line in purple

Since late 2012, SRNS has been executing DOE's Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 2012-1 to reduce the hazards associated with the material at risk, namely plutonium, that remains as residual contamination in Building 235-F. Building 235-F was part of the original construction at SRS in the early 1950s and was utilized for several production

missions throughout its operational life, each of which has left a stamp on the robust facility. Its operations have benefited the nation's defense, NASA and DOE. SRNS reduced risk at 235-F by removing residual plutonium contamination to lessen risks to co-located workers. With the risk reduction portion of the project complete, the

project team transitioned in May 2020 to deactivating the facility. Deactivation will place the facility in a stable configuration for long-term safe storage until the eventual decommissioning.

SRNL has performed analytical sampling from radiochemical processing and radiological environmental monitoring programs at facilities across the Site for over 55 years, utilizing one of the F Area legacy facilities, the F/H Analytical Laboratory. SRNL used the analytical laboratory in F Area to support analyses on a wide range of matrices, such as soil, water, gases, foodstuffs, decommissioning debris, waste, process control, accountability, nuclear safety and industrial hygiene samples.

To reduce costs and streamline capabilities, SRNS and SRNL are nearing the end of a multi-year project to relocate analytical services and methods from SRNL's analytical laboratory facilities in F Area to SRNL's main laboratory in A Area, several miles away. This will save millions annually in facility costs and provide for closure of F Area legacy facilities. By the end of January, all 59 laboratory methods will have been relocated and established in A Area. Deactivation of the legacy F/H Laboratory will begin in FY2021 and is scheduled to be complete in FY2024. Already, 21 laboratories have been taken out of service in the F Area Analytical facilities no longer in use, and a number of gloveboxes have also been cleaned out to accelerate deactivation activities next year.

"I am proud of the safe manner that SRNS has conducted this work," said MacVean. "Cleaning up from a legacy of nuclear materials work is a long process and involves coordination between DOE, SRNS, state and federal regulators. We pride ourselves on delivering on our environmental commitments and this work is just another example of how we make the world safer."

On-site rapid testing strengthens SRS' COVID-19 response

COVID-19 has challenged SRS employees to develop and enact stringent health protocols to protect the workforce from virus transmission. In 2020, the SRNS-led SRS Infectious Disease Response Team (IDRT) organized a response effort that included full-time monitoring of local, regional and national data and led the implementation of sitewide guidelines to address changing conditions.

To further strengthen COVID-19 mitigation efforts, the SRS IDRT launched COVID-19 rapid testing to provide additional opportunities for on-site personnel. In addition to rapid testing, independent testing made possible through a partnership with Augusta University Health (AU Health) was previously launched in the summer of 2020.

Since on-site rapid testing began in November, 406 voluntary rapid tests have been administered to Site employees. This service has also made COVID-19 testing more accessible to employees who plan to travel or those who are concerned that they may have been exposed in a public setting.

"The SRS rapid testing program has provided Site personnel with reliable test results in approximately 15 minutes. Since the program's inception on Nov. 23, 18 asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 have been identified and quickly quarantined, while others have been afforded the



SRNS implemented on-site rapid testing for SRS employees in November.

easily accessible test results, providing them peace of mind when it is needed most," said Brenda Mills, SRNS Site Medical Director.

The SRS rapid testing program is capable of testing 18 employees per day, in addition to the 52 daily test capability provided at the SRS testing location independently operated by AU Health, which has conducted 7,198 tests for SRS employees since June.

Major milestone

MOUs signed with all S.C. HBCUs

To date, SRNS has established memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with 18 local colleges, universities and veteran programs, including recent signings with Clinton College and Morris College.

Stuart MacVean explained that the latest two MOUs mark an important milestone. SRNS has now established a highly valued relationship with the staff and students at every Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in South Carolina.

The MOUs provide a wide variety of resources to these HBCUs donated by SRNS for the benefit of their students, including monetary donations in support of scholarships and paid internships.

“We’re confident that these MOUs will provide much needed assistance for many of their students while providing qualified job candidates for future openings at SRNS,” said MacVean.

MacVean noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has created unexpected financial hardship for a significant number of college students across the state.

The last six MOUs signed by SRNS and South Carolina HBCUs also offered potential tours of SRS for students and faculty (post-COVID-19); provided subject matter experts to serve as advisors and/or mentors; and created a series of workshops to help students improve their resume writing and job interview skills.

In addition, SRNS personnel will promote careers and degree programs related to current and potential future workforce needs associated with cybersecurity, engineering and business management. This information will be available at www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com.

Officials from both Clinton College and Morris College, in return, will collaborate with SRNS personnel to ensure curriculum alignment with existing missions and workforce requirements at SRS.



Dr. Leroy Staggers, President, Morris College, and Stuart MacVean.

“We are looking forward to a long-term partnership with SRNS,” said Leroy Staggers, PhD, President, Morris College. “We are pleased with their desire to assist our students with their occupational plans and needs, now and upon graduation as many will seek rewarding careers at the Savannah River Site. This MOU reflects our continual desire to make excellence a hallmark of Morris College.”

Dr. Lester A. McCorn, President, Clinton College added that taking this important step through their agreement with SRNS clearly demonstrates their desire to strive for excellence. “Foremost is our dedication to our students, families and campus community as we continue to empower and grow those attending Clinton College,” said McCorn.

SRNS has provided more than \$5 million for education outreach since 2008, impacting more than 260,000 students and educators throughout South Carolina and the counties near Augusta, Georgia.

Last year, more than 30,000 students and educators directly benefited from 12 SRNS Education Outreach annual programs and events prior to the closure of school buildings due to the pandemic.

From interns to full service

Streamlined processes make contingent job offers possible

Through a new Streamline Hiring Initiative, SRNS is offering high-performing, qualifying college and university interns contingent job offers up to a year before graduation, when there is an available position.

After a thorough review of recruiting practices, SRNS eliminated processes that hindered the ability to hire top talent and implemented new initiatives to efficiently fill the talent pipeline.

Francine Burroughs, SRNS Talent Acquisition and Development Manager, said, “To get the most experienced, best and brightest talent, we had to change the way we do business. The Streamline Hiring Initiative allows a hiring manager to offer a qualifying intern the opportunity to fill an available position upon graduation.”

Now, an intern can be converted to a full-service employee in as few as two weeks after graduation.

“We see an internship as an interview in action, so when an intern is doing a great job, we want to keep them,” said Burroughs. “Everyone wins when we get a highly competent and motivated individual into the workforce quickly.”

Claire Stastny-Olson was an intern in the Project Controls department, but now, she is a full-service employee as an Associate Business Analyst.

“My internship was very rewarding, and throughout it, my manager and I discussed my career goals,” said Stastny-Olson. “My work was tailored to those goals, and after seeing my performance, I was offered an available full-service position. I’m glad I didn’t have to search for a job after I graduated and could continue contributing to the work happening at SRNS.”



Claire Stastny-Olson

Dr. Sean Alford, SRNS Chief Administrative Officer, led the effort to streamline recruiting processes and position SRNS for continued success in attracting the best talent in the nation.

“Annually, SRNS is fortunate to have interns who go above and beyond. It’s important that we recognize their work ethic and contributions and retain these high-performing individuals,” said Alford.

The SRNS Internship Program provides an opportunity for students attending two-year technical colleges and four-year colleges or universities to gain hands-on learning experiences. The Streamline Hiring Initiative began earlier this year, and so far, 16 interns have been converted to full-service positions.

Don’t get ‘hooked’

The SRNS Cyber Security team goes phishing across SRS once a quarter for employees who click before they think on email links.

“We try to ‘set the hook’ using two or three fake email messages,” said Josh Wright, SRNS Cyber Security. Wright explained that the purpose of these phishing trips is not to embarrass or punish, but to educate and condition.

“We want them to have a questioning attitude when an enticing or fear-inspiring message pops into their email. The bad guys are attempting to manipulate us through our emotions to react quickly. It only takes one click and the damage is done,” he said.

Clicking a link in a phishing email could install malware on a computer that may make its way through the Site network. In 2020, ransomware cost businesses globally an estimated \$20 billion in downtime and recovery.

“If an attacker is impersonating a company, they take existing emails and edit the links to point to their sites,” said Wright. “Essentially near-perfect replicas of real messages with dangerous links are created.”

Wright noted that most SRS employees know to report phishing ploys and other suspicious emails to abuse@srs.gov.

Recently, Wright and the Cyber Security team began using the services of the company KnowBe4 versus creating their own malicious email templates.

“Through KnowBe4, we can efficiently select from over 5,000 high quality templates to create incredibly realistic email scams to train employees with,” he said. “We’ll often take advantage of trending events, sending realistic emails to employees. That’s the same thing that attackers do.”

The results are tracked and then provided to the management team for each Site contractor participating. “We don’t identify anyone; we simply provide the percentage of workers who clicked and whether it changed from the last quarter,” added Wright.

The thorough testing and rollout of this product achieved an important FY2020 Performance Based Initiative for SRNS Information Technology.

Tips during a phishing attack

Compare the email address with the name. Are they consistent?

Hover your cursor over a link to see the address. If different from the URL, be wary. It’s likely an attack (check for inconsistencies regarding its use of .com, .org or .net).

Examine emails closely for grammatical errors, mistakes or misspellings.

Suspicious emails containing threats, instilling fear or urging a prompt action should be considered dangerous.

‘Safety and Security Connect Us’

In January, SRS revealed the 2021 Annual Safety and Security campaign titled “Safety and Security Connect Us.” The campaign displays new banners at the cloverleaf and barricade. It also features a safety culture video of employees from Site contractors. The SRS workforce’s core values are safety, security, health and environmental stewardship. By staying connected and engaged, SRS employees are empowered to protect the safety and security of every individual on Site, and that value system extends into the many communities that SRS employees call “home.”



New Safety and Security campaign banners are on display.

INNOVATION • DEFENSE

NONPROLIFERATION • ENVIRONMENT

SRNS



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

We make the world **safer.**