

# News from the Savannah River Site

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**For Immediate Release**

## Seven New Recruits Join Mentor-Protégé Program at SRS

**AIKEN, S.C.** – (August 1, 2024) – An EM contractor at the Savannah River Site (SRS) recently onboarded seven new small businesses into the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Mentor-Protégé Program.



*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) protégés met to share knowledge and experiences during the 2023 Mentor-Protégé Center of Excellence Day. To further nurture small business, SRNS awarded \$41 million in small business protégé subcontracts in fiscal year 2023.*

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

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

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

Over the past five years, SRNS has awarded more than \$123 million in subcontracts to protégés, with \$41 million awarded in fiscal year 2023 alone. Of the 48 protégés in the DOE program, SRNS manages 12 through its Mentor-Protégé Center of Excellence. That equates to 25% of the total — the highest number among the more than 30 facility management contractors in the Department.

Lisa Tanner, SRNS Small Business Liaison Officer, praises the program team for its dedication to small businesses.

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

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

“This experience as a protégé has provided us with invaluable mentorship, resources and industry insights, significantly enhancing our capabilities and competitiveness as a growing diverse business,” said Euleta Alston, US&S President and Owner. “The collaboration with SRNS has not only accelerated our growth but strengthened our contributions to DOE missions. We are very grateful for this program.”

Typically, companies participate in the program for two years with the option for three one-year extensions. The current 12 small businesses enrolled in the program specialize in various areas— each bringing innovative solutions, unique perspectives and specialized skills to the Site.

“Our Supplier Excellence team utilizes the Mentor-Protégé program to build a pipeline of qualified suppliers in critical supplier segments,” said Dave Dietz, SRNS Senior Procurement Director. “The program serves as an incubator for small business growth while meeting the needs for critical products and services at SRS. We are thrilled to have another great combination of firms signed this year.”

Protégés that receive mentor-protégé agreements at SRS can secure subcontracts to work at other DOE-EM facilities. SRS shares mentoring insights with other DOE sites to simplify the procurement process and save federal procurement dollars through efficient purchasing methods.

*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.*

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