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For Immediate Release

SRNS Announces Registration Deadline for Future City Competition

South Carolina's students and those from nearly 40 other regions across the country will be tasked with creating alternative energy resources that maintain a healthy planet

AIKEN, S.C. (Sept. 23, 2011) – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, in partnership with the University of South Carolina Aiken, is sponsoring a design-level competition involving the creation of a near utopian city of the future where many of our current urban issues are targeted and solved. Registration for this competition has begun with a deadline for schools nationwide of Monday, Oct. 31.

South Carolina's middle school students and those within the greater Augusta, Ga., area will be among those participating in 2011-12 Future City® regional competition. Specifically, contestants will be asked to incorporate within their architectural design a method to provide



At a recent Future City Teacher/Mentor Workshop, held at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center in Aiken, SC, Bond Calloway, Research Manager, Alternative Energy, Savannah River National Laboratory, explains to South Carolina regional teachers the various energy sources that produce electricity and the current research aimed at providing alternative solutions.

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electricity for a future city using an energy source that does not deplete natural resources and has a limited impact on the environment.

Future City is also looking for engineering and technical professionals who may be interested in serving as mentors. For information, school registration, or to volunteer in the Future City Competition, visit www.futurecity.org.

Students start with a research essay describing their concept. Next, they build a virtual city using SimCity™ software and a physical model using, primarily, recycled materials.

“As they address their alternative energy solutions, they will consider the safety, cost, efficiency, and appearance of their ideas,” said Kim Mitchell, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions employee and South Carolina Future City Coordinator. “They will also learn about the engineering disciplines that encompass their solution, including learning and identifying the steps of the design process.”

The 2011-12 Future City Competition is expected to attract more than 33,000 students from 1,000 middle schools in regions located across the country. The annual challenge has received national attention and acclaim for its role in encouraging middle school students nationwide to develop their interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Through hands-on applications, Future City participants discover how engineering is both accessible and can make a difference in the world. Last year, for the first time, sixth graders were invited to join seventh and eighth grade students in the competition.

“This project will give our students an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the importance of energy and the skills it will take to find realistic solutions” said B.R. Smith, Teacher, North Augusta Middle School. “We want to continually encourage and stimulate our students to gain interest in STEM-related topics. It’s an area, as a nation, where we are lacking, and Future City generates this kind of interest in a meaningful, fun way.”

South Carolina is one of nearly 40 regions taking part in this year’s competition. The South Carolina competition culminates with the regional finals in January 2012. The winning team from the South Carolina and greater Augusta area will represent South Carolina at the national finals in Crystal City, Va., which takes place during February 2012. The National Finals Grand Prize winners receive a trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala., provided by National Finals host Bentley Systems, Incorporated.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-Daniel Partnership comprised of Fluor, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

SRNS-11-65

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