

from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC

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**For Immediate Release**

## SRS Transition Center Receives Second Major Award for Assisting Displaced Employees

*Since opening in March 2011, the SRS Transition Center has seen nearly one out of every two clients hired by other companies*

AIKEN, S.C. – (March 1, 2012) Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS) and the Lower Savannah Council on Government (COG) have earned their second prestigious award for operating the best regional “one-stop” employment center in 2011 based on the design, services and management of the SRS Transition Center (STC) in Aiken, S.C. The award was recently presented to STC personnel by the Lower Savannah Workforce Development Board of Directors.



Gary Perez (left), SRS Transition Center Coordinator, and Bob Rhoden, SRNS Manager, Workforce Planning & Transition Services, display awards recently presented to SRS Transition Center personnel for operating the best “one-stop” employment center. To date, over 230 former SRS employees have found employment while using the extensive services provided by the Center, all during a persistent and deep economic recession.

“The award is certainly merited with nearly 50 percent of all displaced SRS employees offered STC services having found employment with companies locally and throughout the U.S.,” said David Moody, DOE’s Savannah River Operations Office Manager.

*The Savannah River Site is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy and is managed and operated by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.*

The STC received the highest score among the nine Lower Savannah Council on Government one-stop centers located throughout the Lower Savannah Region, found in six South Carolina counties – Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, and Orangeburg.

“The success of this partnership between the Lower Savannah Council on Government and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions has been truly amazing,” said Moody. “The Department’s sponsorship and support of this cross-contractor, cross-business sector effort has truly paid dividends for both area employers and those directly affected by recent workforce restructuring at SRS.”

According to Lower Savannah Workforce Development Area Administrator Sam Jordan, the receipt of a national award in 2011 for innovation and now, another major award in 2012, affirms the true value of the SRS Transition Center.

The 2011 national award was presented to the STC by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), located in Washington, D.C. NADO is dedicated to promoting regional strategies, partnerships and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life across America’s local communities.

“Two dedicated organizations working closely together to assist those in need can accomplish great things,” said Jordan. “Best to my knowledge, our success rate in placing former employees into new jobs at the Center is unprecedented.”

Bob Rhoden, SRNS Manager, Workforce Planning and Transition Services, explained that a “One-Stop Center” is a facility for unemployed workers within which they can apply for state unemployment benefits while also taking advantage of several job search resources.

There are a number of one-stop centers to be found throughout the state of South Carolina, both in the upper and lower regions.

“We’ve combined the strengths of public and private industry into a win-win partnership that benefits all involved,” said Rhoden. “In fact, we’ve taken the traditional concept of a one-stop center and greatly enhanced it with additional options and services, all within an outstanding facility. A prime example would include our searchable job database containing thousands of openings directly applicable to the skill sets of the people we’re assisting.”

The resources offered at the STC also include assistance with unemployment compensation, computer labs, employee assistance counseling, financial counseling, a large variety of printed materials, and on-site workshops on resume preparation, interview skills, locating and obtaining training to fill skill gaps. The STC also offers a four-week workshop and assistance on how to start your own business. STC sponsors open houses on a frequent basis for companies to present employment opportunities and conduct on-site interviews.

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Since 1969, the Lower Savannah Council of Governments has been assisting local governments in meeting the needs of its citizens by providing a wide array of planning, administrative, and technical services to all local governments in the Lower Savannah region.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor 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.

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