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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Sam Fink Earns Donald Orth Lifetime Achievement Award

AIKEN, S.C. (December 31, 2013) – Savannah River National Laboratory's Dr. Sam Fink has been named the 2013 winner of the Donald Orth Lifetime Achievement award, the highest distinction given by SRNL to recognize the ideals of technical excellence and leadership.

Fink was presented the award in a luncheon that included several distinguished guests – most notably, the award's namesake, Dr. Donald Orth. Orth retired from SRNL in 1992, after a distinguished 41 year research career. The award was established in 1993 to periodically honor an individual "who by character and leadership best exemplifies Dr. Orth's character and contributions."

In presenting the award, SRNL Director Dr. Terry Michalske called Fink "a person who is really showing that the reach and influence of this Lab is nationwide, if not international… Sam is an example of scientific and technical excellence, but his contributions go beyond technical impact. He's a terrific mentor and leader, and he's someone who absolutely lives up to the ideals modeled by Dr. Orth and the other recipients of this honor."

SRNL Director, Dr. Terry Michalske (left) presents the Donald Orth Lifetime Achievement award to Dr. Sam Fink. Dr. Orth (right), who retired after a 41-year career at SRNL, also attended the presentation.

Fink arrived here in 1987. He has a doctorate in Chemical Engineering from

The Ohio State University, and has been involved in numerous technical programs addressing chemical processing options. Most notably, he was a critical part of SRNL's scientific and technical support for the startup of the site's Actinide Removal Process (ARP) / Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction (MCU) process for salt waste removal. He played a significant technical and leadership role in developing and now deploying a next generation of chemical solvent for continuing improvement of the MCU facility.

He has led and participated in flowsheet development efforts for completion of several chemical processing missions, and laid the foundation for future missions. In addition to being a critical part of the SRNL support for missions at SRS, he has participated and consulted with numerous teams across the DOE complex. Most notably, he is currently serving as Co-Director of the Full-Scale Vessel Testing program in support of the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant Design Completion, teaming with senior leadership from other laboratory, contractor and DOE organizations.

In addition to Dr. Orth, the luncheon was attended by eight former winners of the award, some of whom are now retired. Fink said that his satisfaction came "not from the work, but from the people you work with … The greatest honor is to work with people of this caliber."

Other past Orth Award recipients who were present included Major Thompson (1996); Carl Fliermans (1997); Bill Kanne (2000); Ned Bibler (2002); Al Garrett (2006); David Hobbs (2007); Carol Jantzen (2010); and, Joe Cordaro (2012).

Don Orth, said Michalske, "came here when this place was the woods, and prepared it to invent the future technologies that would help us win the Cold War. He's part of a technical legacy that still underpins what we do today, and that's the basis for a very bright future for this Laboratory. I couldn't imagine a better namesake for our highest award."

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