

Primary Media Contact:  
Lindsey MonBarren  
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions  
803.645.5455  
lindsey.monbarren@srs.gov

DOE Media Contact  
Amy Boyette  
803.952.6120  
amy.boyette@srs.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## First Joint Cohort of Operator Apprentices Joins SRS

Over 100 apprentices across three contractors

**AIKEN, S.C.** (February 23, 2023) — Three Savannah River Site (SRS) contractors recently collaborated to welcome their first joint cohort of Production Operator Apprentices as part of the Nuclear Fundamentals program, which will provide over 100 trained operators to the Site once the program is completed.

The Operator Apprentice program started as a partnership with managing and operating contractor, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), Aiken Technical College (ATC), Apprenticeship Carolina™ (AC), and the Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG). The eight-month program simultaneously allows for students to complete their classroom work and on the job training by allowing them to spend two days a week in the classroom and two days a week on Site. At the end of the program, participants will have earned a certificate in nuclear fundamentals.

For this round of operator apprentices, SRNS joined with Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC), the liquid waste contractor at SRS, and the Savannah River National Laboratory to offer over 100 openings for the program. Apprentices will learn the basic qualifications of a production operator, including conduct of operations principles, radiation worker training and qualification and how to perform shift rounds. Those who successfully complete the program are hired and put to work in areas across SRS.



*The first joint cohort of SRS Production Operator Apprentices at Aiken Technical College.*

“This is the sixth cohort of Operator Apprentices SRNS has hired and the largest group to date,” said Dr. Dorian Newton, SRNS Program Manager, Apprenticeship School and Pipeline Training. “We are excited to see this program grow and to partner with other Site contractors. This program is beneficial not only to our companies, but to SRS as a whole and to the community.”

SRMC also welcomed its largest class of operators in its history with 53 new hires set out to fill key roles in various SRS liquid waste facilities.

“Operators are on the front lines of safely and successfully running the Site’s nuclear facilities,” said Dr. Dave Olson, SRMC President and Program Manager. “Effective and proper training is essential to ensuring our operators possess the critical skills for their jobs. We are thankful for this joint effort with SRNS, Aiken Technical College, and Apprenticeship Carolina to provide the quality training for future SRS operators. These employees have bright futures ahead should they choose to grow in their careers at SRS.”

# News from the Savannah River Site

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The Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship Program is part of Apprenticeship Carolina™ (AC). AC is a division of the South Carolina Technical College System, and leads South Carolina in registered apprenticeship programs that help businesses and communities thrive economically. With the guidance of AC as well as the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, the operator apprenticeship program has been registered both with the state and nationally.

sion to get done and set up special teams to make that happen. And that's exactly what's going on here.”

Established by Congress in 2000, NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear science. NNSA maintains and enhances the safety, security, and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile; works to reduce the global danger from weapons of mass destruction; provides the U.S. Navy with safe and militarily effective nuclear propulsion; and responds to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the U.S. and abroad.

*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor-led company with Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, 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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