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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SRNL Meteorologist to Head the American Meteorological Society

AIKEN, S.C. (January 19, 2016) – A meteorologist at the Department of Energy’s Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) has been elected 2016 President-Elect of the American Meteorological Society (AMS). Matthew J. Parker will take leadership of the organization in 2017. Parker is a Certified Consulting Meteorologist at SRNL specializing in meteorological measurements and instrumentation.



Parker is the first AMS President affiliated with DOE.

“Weather and climate information have been utilized effectively by the traditional energy industries for decades. Today, there is increasing need for improved wind and solar forecasts to support the burgeoning renewable energy sector. DOE has a huge role to play, and it is fitting that this is reflected within the leadership of the AMS,” Parker said.

As president, he will represent the Society’s 13,000 members, and will lead the AMS Council, the governing body of the organization. “The AMS covers an incredible breadth of activities in what we call the weather, water and climate enterprise,” said Parker. “The nation demands and deserves valid, accurate answers to pressing issues ranging from forecasting tomorrow’s high impact weather events to assessing effects of a changing climate upon our nation’s infrastructure.”

Extreme weather can be crippling to our nation’s economy, but accurate forecasts communicated effectively to the emergency management community, businesses and the general public can be invaluable for cost-avoidance. “Furthermore, our nation must continue to develop a national infrastructure that is resilient to the climate of the future. The demand for such information to make these critical long term decisions is extremely high right now,” he added.



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# News from Savannah River National Laboratory

Parker will use the leadership position to enhance partnerships with other countries to share measurement and forecast model data. He also plans to provide outreach to industry, academia and the public during his tenure.

A graduate of North Carolina State University, Parker has been a meteorologist with SRNL's Atmospheric Technologies Group (ATG) since 1989. ATG specializes in weather forecasting, meteorological measurements, atmospheric modeling of airborne contaminants and emergency response support for an extensive set of government and industry clients.

Founded in 1919, AMS is the nation's premier scientific and professional organization promoting and disseminating information about the atmospheric, oceanic and hydrologic sciences. The membership includes scientists, researchers, educators, broadcast meteorologists, students, and other professionals in the fields of weather, water and climate.

The Savannah River National Laboratory is a multi-program applied research and development laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy. SRNL applies state-of-the-art science and engineering to provide practical, high-value, cost-effective solutions for our nation's environmental cleanup, nuclear security and clean energy challenges. For more information, visit <http://srnl.doe.gov>