

Principal Media Contact: DT Townsend
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
803.952.7566
dt-lawrence.townsend@srs.gov

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SRNS Donates \$50,000 to Support Potential “Technology Villages,” Funding Business Growth Throughout a Six-County Region Near SRS

Economically challenged communities to benefit from organizations supporting entrepreneurial companies and products

AIKEN, S.C. – (January 5, 2016) – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) has donated \$50,000 to the Southern Carolina Alliance (SCA) in support of a new, innovative program known as “Technology Villages” to attract and grow small, entrepreneurial businesses in a six-county region near SRS.

The counties that would benefit would include Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Jasper and Hampton.

“The potential economic gain for the residents of our region will be greatly enhanced once the Technology Village concept is fully implemented,” said Danny Black, SCA President and CEO. SCA is the organization managing economic development within this six-county area. “This is why the generous financial contribution made by SRNS is so important and highly appreciated. They understand the long-term impact this program could have on those in need and want to make this vision a reality.”



SRNS President & CEO Carol Johnson (center) presents a \$50,000 check to Buddy Phillips, Chairman, Southern Carolina Alliance, with U.S. Congressman Joe Wilson (right) assisting. The donation will support a program to attract entrepreneurial, technology-based companies to economically challenged communities throughout a six-county region within and near the greater Aiken-Augusta area.

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The original Technology Village concept, created at Clemson University, assists community leaders in the development, training and operation of storefront businesses in small and moderate-sized communities across South Carolina by providing intellectual property, technology evaluation, product development services, seed financing, business mentorship, corporate relationships and recruiting expertise. SouthernCarolina Alliance has submitted an application to bring the Technology Village program to the six-county area.

“Our primary objective at the end of the three-year award period is to have created a sustainable structure that generates innovation-based entrepreneurship that leads to economic uplift in these economically challenged counties,” said Carol Johnson.

The new Technology Villages would mirror in concept the larger Technology Villages already in place throughout the rest of the state in the cities of Bluffton, Hartsville, Conway and Rock Hill, building on their success.

Over its first 18 months, the Clemson Technology Village program experienced a high degree of success having supported the development of 32 companies.

“We need to encourage potential startup companies within our region to consider choosing the Technology Villages and have the ability to train our workforce to meet the needs of these new businesses,” said Black. “Our desire is to enable these technology-based ventures to grow and flourish, so that in time, they will leave the Technology Villages and open their fully independent businesses in nearby communities, continuing to grow in size and number,” added Black.

Clemson’s Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership, Institute for Economic Development, College of Business and Behavioral Science and the Office of Economic Development, through a collaborative alliance, launched the Technology Villages program in 2012, to provide startup support and services to participating community Technology Villages programs across South Carolina.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, 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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