

● MARCH 2024

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today

A VISION to help a mission

SRNS volunteers give back to the local community



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

Supplier engagement overhaul • Developing workforce pipeline • DOE Secretary of Energy Awards



Dennis Carr
SRNS President and CEO

On the cover

SRNS employees Josh Givens, Josh Gordon and Mike Hall install a new fence at the Helping Hands facility in Aiken, South Carolina.

Welcome

to the March 2024 edition of

SRNS Today

March was another month that saw tremendous accomplishments throughout SRNS. Our employees continue to go above and beyond in all that they do, and I couldn't be prouder to be a part of this team.

This month, the Supply Chain Management (SCM) team completed an overhaul of the supplier evaluation process, enabling us to validate manufacturers' capabilities to meet critical schedule requirements. Through this process, SCM can better determine a manufacturer's capabilities before awarding them with a contract, leading to higher success rates of delivering parts on or ahead of schedule. This achievement will go a long way in aiding the pit production mission.

Additionally, the Supply Chain Procurement (SCP) team accomplished significant advancements in their procurement process. SCP recently developed "Project Revolution," a six-step process to support a more transient workforce, accelerate mission critical acquisitions, and review and eliminate procedural barriers and non-value-added steps.

Over 100 Site employees were recently recognized as members of teams receiving Secretary of Energy Achievement Awards, given for accomplishments made in 2023. Congratulations to you all and keep up the great work!

We also continue to show our support for the local community through multiple programs. Earlier in the month, SRNS provided a \$30,000 sponsorship to support the Dreams, Imagination and Gift (DIG) program, which provides STEM opportunities in rural areas.

Please enjoy this month's edition of SRNS Today.



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our employees and other stakeholders of the company's operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

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COMMON ACRONYMS

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS) • Department of Energy (DOE)
National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) • Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF)
Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) • science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)

Supplier engagement overhaul strengthens SRS supply chain

A Supply Chain Management team at SRS accomplished a significant overhaul of the supplier evaluation process to validate manufacturers' capabilities to meet critical schedule requirements.

The NNSA has tasked and funded SRS to begin preliminary planning work related to nuclear weapons modernization. In support of this mission, SRNS needed the ability to assess manufacturing and assembly capabilities of suppliers proposing in an environment where businesses are challenged with an insufficient labor base.

SRNS launched the Supplier Technical Assessment and Validation (STAV) process. This new process has enabled SRNS to better determine manufacturers' capabilities before award, in turn leading to higher success rates of delivering parts on or ahead of schedule.

SRNS quickly stood up a team of subject matter experts in engineering, quality, welding and procurement; the team then conducted a thorough assessment with potential suppliers. These assessments included the review of manufacturing processes, quality, fabrication schedules, capacity and more.

To strengthen the manufacturing supply base, SRNS connected suppliers with Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) teams. These partnerships, organized through the U.S. Department of Commerce, are staffed by manufacturing and business operations experts who are experienced turnaround gurus.

Together, manufacturers and MEP teams reviewed facilities and implemented process improvements focused on increasing manufacturing efficiency.

Unleashing this latent supply base capacity will facilitate on-time shipments and preclude costly construction delays.

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“This is a win-win for our suppliers and SRNS.”

Jay Johnson,
Deputy Vice President of Contracts
and Supply Chain Management

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The STAV process is now being scaled across the SRNS manufacturing supply base to improve the DOE project and mission success.

“This is a win-win for our suppliers and SRNS,” said Jay Johnson, SRNS Deputy Vice President of Contracts and Supply Chain Management. “This process transforms how we engage suppliers — proactively in advance of procurement, which enables partnering initiatives to ready the supply base for our complex requirements and aggressive schedules.”

Suppliers obtain expert guidance on how to improve their key processes, resulting in the ability to become much more agile and efficient. Additionally, most MEPs have state funding to assist suppliers in their states to sustain and grow businesses, which means more stability for the state's labor base.

This process yields early recognition of risk and mitigation steps that can be taken by the supplier, which results in increasing confidence in supplier commitments.



SRNS Supplier Technical Assessment and Validation team with a Manufacturing Extension Partnership team during a STAV manufacturing facility review



Rick Nash, Machining Training Center (MTC) Operations, provides a tour of the MTC during an SRNS Education Outreach event held on March 13.

Developing workforce pipeline with educators

On March 13, a group of 23 participants representing 17 education and workforce development organizations toured SRS. Organized by SRNS Education Outreach, the group ranged from high school teachers to regional workforce advisors across 12 counties from the Upper Savannah Region, Lower Savannah Region and Lowcountry of South Carolina.

After receiving an overview of Site missions, including current and future employment opportunities, participants toured the Machining Training Center (MTC), a cutting-edge facility at SRS that will be used for training operators to support a variety of Site missions, including those of NNSA.

“Today was a great opportunity to showcase our workforce needs and highlight the large number of technical positions that will be required to support missions across the Site, including NNSA national security missions,” said Rick Nash, MTC Operations. “Working with local and regional educators is critical for relaying the skills and knowledge needed at the middle and high school level, in order to establish this employment pipeline.”

Jacqueline Rapp, Director of Career and Technical Education and Instructional Technology at McCormick County School District, said, “As an educator, I am always interested in exploring opportunities that could be beneficial for me to share with students and other educators. It was very interesting to find out the endless possibilities for employment in all different types of areas.”

Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach Program Lead, presented information about the SRS Apprenticeship School, including the 24 current registered apprenticeship programs at the Site. Mitchell also highlighted the 91% rate of participants who have successfully transitioned to full-time roles at SRS upon program completion.

“Key technical positions are in such high demand,” said Mitchell, “especially at other sites within the Nuclear Security Enterprise. As we look to the future, and as the Site prepares to expand national security missions, as well as complete the current environmental management missions, it is more important than ever to form partnerships with education and workforce development organizations to fill these gaps with qualified applicants.”

Preparing employees for confined spaces

SRNS Site Training department recently added a mock-up to their Confined Space training, giving employees an opportunity to apply their studies in a safe and contained environment.

Employees who perform, supervise or plan work within permit-required confined spaces on-site are required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to complete Confined Space training. This course is necessary to provide an effective control of hazards and reduce any safety and health risks to employees who will be performing work in a confined space. Examples of confined spaces include storm sewers, water tanks and storage tanks.

The Confined Space mock-up consists of a large shipping container box that simulates a confined space with both a vertical and horizontal entry. A tripod retrieval device equipped with a fall protection cage was installed over the vertical entry with a 250-pound mannequin attached. In application, this system allows students to practice raising the mannequin to become familiar with the level of effort needed to perform a non-entry rescue.

The course covers definitions, responsibilities and forms found in Manual 8Q, Procedure 33, hazards and their associated controls, atmospheric monitoring, and rescue planning. Once the course is complete, an exam is administered followed by a performance assessment in the Confined Space mock-up. During the performance assessment, students are individually asked questions to assess their knowledge. They also set up non-entry rescue devices and demonstrate the use of the tripod retrieval device by rescuing the mannequin.

“This new process will benefit our students by challenging their application of information obtained in the Confined Space course through first-hand experience performing non-entry rescue with retrieval devices,” said Rob Rodino, Regulatory and General Training Lead. “Providing these learning opportunities prepares employees to perform these functions in the field, helping make Savannah River Site a safer place to work.”



Confined Space training students practice using the tripod retrieval device before attempting the vertical rescue of a mannequin from a confined space.

Supply Chain Procurement’s ‘Project Revolution’

Overhaul helps SRS accelerate mission-critical acquisitions



SRNS Supply Chain Procurement, led by the Project Revolution team, unlocked latent organizational capacity to better deliver national and global missions. From left: Jason Zeimet, Brandy Edwards, Tamara Starkey, Elizabeth Wooten, Sheri Alexander, Jess Robson, Victoria Walker and Regina Harrison.

SRNS has recently unlocked latent organizational capacity in Supply Chain Procurement (SCP) to better deliver national and global security missions at SRS.

In 2023, the SRNS SCP subcontracted \$1.2 billion, an increase of nearly 70% from the previous year and a single year record for SRNS. The team determined an entire overhaul of SCP processes and procedures was needed to meet this demand. After analyzing the procurement cycle and receiving suggestions from various buyer groups, the SCP team created a six-step process known as ‘Project Revolution.’

“The goal of this project was to support a more transient workforce, accelerate mission critical acquisitions, and review and eliminate procedural barriers and non-value-added steps,” said Elizabeth Wooten, SRNS Manager, Business Programs. “Ultimately, it would redefine or eliminate 122 forms and 41 procedures used in the procurement process.”

SCP leveraged input from subject matter experts within procurement, throughout SRNS and across the complex to create prototype forms. The forms were then tested by members of the procurement team for

further improvement. SCM Business Programs tracked all changes using Microsoft Planner, an existing software tool with no additional cost. The iterative process and commitment to improvement led to successful change management.

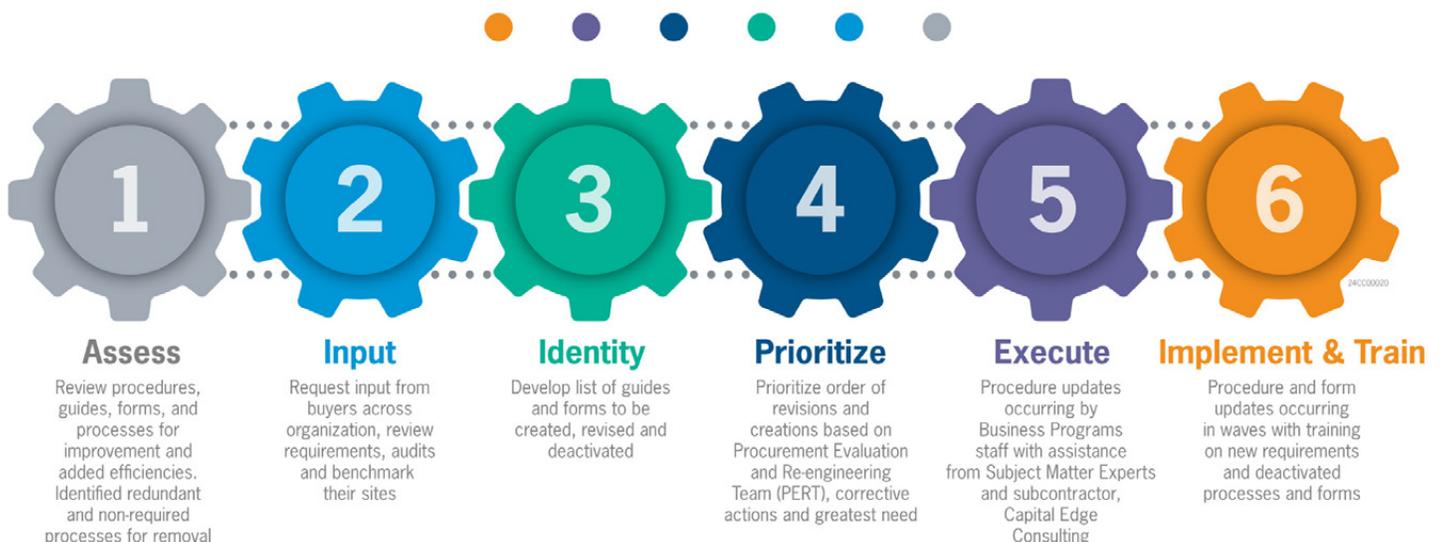
“To prioritize revisions, our team looked for high-value cost-saving activities,” said Dave Dietz, SCP Senior Director. “We brought the greatest value to our stakeholders and SRNS by targeting the most frequently performed activities first.”

As a result, 68 out of the 163 documents (40%) were successfully eliminated. Once implemented, Project Revolution’s form and procedure changes could create substantial process efficiency for SRS and save an estimated five hours per procurement personnel per month.

“Our staff can now spend less time on administrative work and more time focusing on the complex work of procurement,” said Jay Johnson, SRNS Deputy Vice President, Contracts and SCM. “This project was key in allowing our team to meet our subcontract requirements, drive greater outputs and better deliver on our national and global security missions.”

In fiscal year 2024, SRS aims to onboard several new technologies to gain future efficiencies within the procurement cycle.

Project Revolution



A Area Biomass Boiler successfully serviced



Site Infrastructure Design Authority Engineers Richard Brown and Kristian Aiken inspect equipment at the A Area Biomass Plant.

SRNS SITE SERVICES RECENTLY RESTARTED and placed in service an A Area Biomass Boiler.

Site Services supports current and potential missions by providing the oversight and operations of 15 site infrastructure systems that provide water, steam and electricity.

“The loss of steam can result in highly expensive recovery costs and operational impacts to our customers,” said Randy Keenan, SRNS Director of Site Infrastructure. “To prepare for unexpected outages within the A Area steam generation facilities, Site Services conducts routine observations of all biomass boilers and performs simulated drills.”

In January, a small leak in the biomass boiler was discovered by operations personnel on the feedwater inlet. Upon further investigation, a transverse crack where the feedwater enters the boiler was confirmed and was growing in size.

“We knew we couldn’t wait until the scheduled spring outage to fix this leak, so we assigned our team to get to the bottom of it,” continued Keenan.

The Nondestructive Examination team first performed a magnetic particle examination that identified two cracks in the shell of the boiler and the feed water inlet nozzle weld. The team removed the compromised weld joint and nozzle crack and repaired the cavities. An ultrasonic thickness examination and additional magnetic particle examination were performed to ensure properly based metal remained.

“The new nozzle was fit to the boiler shell, and the root pass was made – it was a perfect weld,” said Donald “Donny” Barfield, SRNS Director of Site Services.

Finally, the team performed an ultrasonic shear wave examination on the new weld to ensure no defects existed; and the assignment was complete.

“I couldn’t be more proud of this team for working around-the-clock to get this job done with so much at stake,” continued Barfield. “With freezing weather approaching, steam was required for protection in SRNL and SREL. Failure was not an option.”

“By returning the boiler to service in a week, no significant impacts to our customers occurred,” said Jeff Hall, SRNS Operations Manager. “We will continue to raise the bar on our performance to satisfy DOE and our customers.”



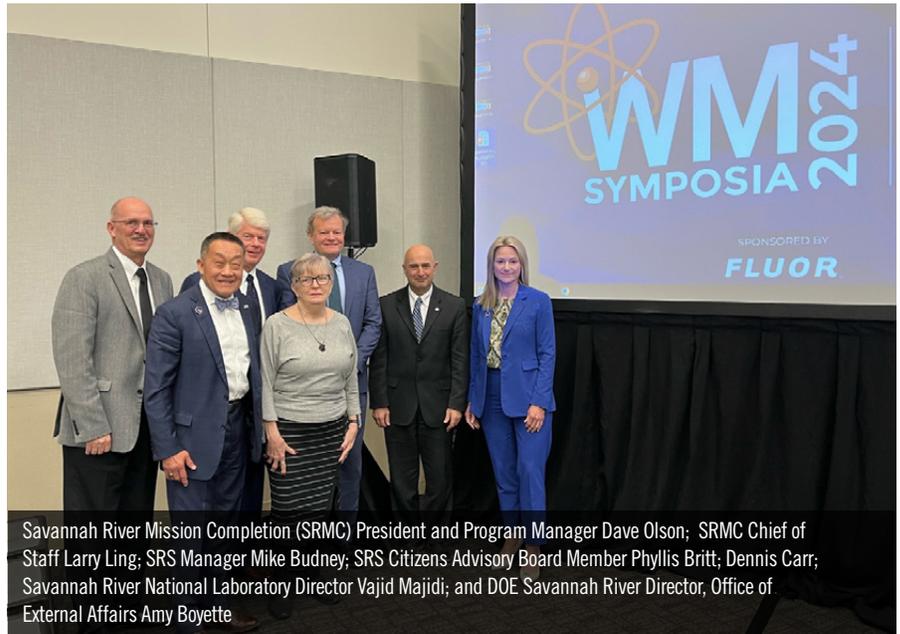
The Biomass Repair Team responsible for restarting the A Area Biomass Boiler

The 50th annual Waste Management Symposia

More than a dozen SRNS employees recently visited Phoenix, Arizona, to participate in the 50th annual Waste Management Symposia (WMS). SRNS employees represented SRNS during panel discussions, by giving presentations on a number of topics and presenting posters.

Dennis Carr joined other leaders from SRS on a panel titled “Update of the DOE Savannah River Site.” Carr gave an overview of the EM missions at SRS and also covered workforce recruitment efforts to train the next generation of SRS employees for the future.

“Thank you to all the SRNS employees who participated in the conference,” said Carr. “SRNS has always been a big part of the discussion when it comes to nuclear waste management, and we are proud to have been able to tell others in the industry what we do every day to make the world safer.”



Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC) President and Program Manager Dave Olson; SRMC Chief of Staff Larry Ling; SRS Manager Mike Budney; SRS Citizens Advisory Board Member Phyllis Britt; Dennis Carr; Savannah River National Laboratory Director Vajid Majidi; and DOE Savannah River Director, Office of External Affairs Amy Boyette

Other presenters



Mike Swain, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Environmental Management, participated on a panel titled “Strategies to Increase Efficiency, Reduce Cost, Accelerate Work, and Maintain Operational Excellence.”



Francine Burroughs, Senior Vice President, Workforce Services and Talent Management, participated on a panel titled “A Human Resource Perspective on Challenges and Opportunity in Workforce Requests.”



Jay Johnson, Deputy Vice President, Contracts and Supply Chain, participated on a panel titled “DOE Eastern Site-Specific Procurement and Contracting Opportunities.”



Bryan Ortner, Director, Organizational Analytics, presented “Successful Development, Implementation, and Use of Data Analytics Tools for Workforce Decision Making.”



Lee Sims, K Area Facility Manager, and **Chuck Hayes**, K Area Complex Program and Project Integration Manager, presented “Successfully Implementing the Dilute and Dispose Strategy to Remove Plutonium from South Carolina.”



James Therrell, Environmental Management Operations Mission Planning Manager, presented “Program Summary for Processing of Non-Aluminum SNF at SRS.”



Tara Armstead, Environmental Management Operations Program Manager, presented “The Future of Spent Nuclear Fuel Processing at SRS Under the Accelerated Basin Deinventory Program.”



Cody Fee, Environmental Management Operations Program Planner, presented the “Transfer of Unrecovered SNF to H-Tank Farms Sludge Batch 11 at SRS and Lessons Learned.”



Dorian Newton, Deputy Director, SRS Training, and **Booboo Roberts**, Deputy Program Manager of Apprenticeship and Pipeline Training Programs, presented “The 3 P’s: Pay, Paper and Position: ‘A System of Systems’ Approach to Regional Workforce.”



The annual WMS is the premier international conference for the management of radioactive materials and related topics. WMS is attended by over 2,000 people from 40 different countries.

Site volunteers with VISION



As part of the Project VISION volunteer efforts, SRNS employees work on numerous facility repairs at the Aiken Youth Development Center.

On March 15, SRNS employees lent a helping hand to the local community during the 28th annual Project VISION (Volunteers in Service in Our Neighborhoods), benefitting partner agencies of the United Way of Aiken County.

One hundred and fifty volunteers dispersed across 17 different projects sites in the Aiken area. They helped with the facility upkeep of local agencies, as well as home repairs for low-income homeowners and senior citizens. This year’s projects included landscaping, fence repairs, painting, woodworking, handicap modifications and more.

Established in 1966, Project VISION aims to ensure the facility needs of local United Way agencies are met for them to successfully achieve their charitable missions. Volunteers are the heart of the program, donating their time, talents and skills to support various project requests from the community.

SRNS Cyber Systems Engineer Daniel Wilson has volunteered with the program for three years and was a team lead at the Aiken County YMCA project site.

“Project VISION continues to be a long tradition of SRS employees giving back to the local community,” said Wilson. “There are many in need throughout the Aiken area, and it’s important that we continue this act of giving back by providing support to the local United Way agencies.”

The Aiken County Family YMCA received a fresh coat of paint on their pool deck, as well as a new layer of mulch around the entrance of the facility. The organization has served Aiken since 2012, providing programs that support healthy living, youth development and community outreach.

SRNS Principal Project Manager Blake Bowers volunteered at the Helping Hands project site, a nonprofit organization that serves as an emergency home for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, abandonment and/or neglect.

“This year, our team accomplished several projects around the Helping Hands campus, including installing a fence, building benches for the basketball court and landscape work around the facility,” said Bowers. “It’s rewarding to know that these improvements will help the children staying here feel more at home.”

“Our employees’ volunteer efforts during Project VISION have made a real difference in our local community. Their selflessness and compassion are a shining example of the positive impact we can have when we come together,” said Dennis Carr.



SRNS volunteers Sarita Green and Hendell Frazier repair a wooden bench at the Helping Hands of Aiken facility.



SRNS employees Daniel Wilson and Matthew Saul apply a fresh coat of paint to the pool deck at the Aiken County Family YMCA.

Partner agencies that received assistance

- Helping Hands of Aiken
- Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS) of Aiken
- Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County
- Mental Health America Aiken Nurture Home
- Girl Scouts of South Carolina Mountains to Midlands
- Tri-Development Center of Aiken County (multiple locations)
- Aiken Youth Development Center/Aiken Boxing Club
- The Salvation Army of Aiken Homeless Shelter
- Golden Harvest Food Bank
- Aiken County Family YMCA
- The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club of Aiken

In addition, volunteers gathered at four different community homes to build wheelchair ramps and work on home repairs.

2023 Secretary of Energy Achievement Awards

OVER 100 SITE EMPLOYEES, including many from SRNS, were recently recognized as members of teams receiving Secretary of Energy Achievement Awards, including many DOE and contractor employees, based on accomplishments in 2023.

These awards recognize DOE employees and contractors for their service and contributions to the Department's mission and the benefit of the nation. They represent some of the highest internal, non-monetary recognitions that DOE employees and contractors can receive.

"We are proud to announce that many SRS employees were again recognized as contributors to several of the teams honored with Secretary of Energy Achievement Awards," SRS Manager Mike Budney said. "Thank you to our employees who work tirelessly to contribute to our community, our nation and the world."

SRS employees were recognized as contributing members to the following teams:



DOE Cross-Cutting Fleet Management Team

Ordered over 500 zero-emission vehicles and installed nearly 600 charging ports in fiscal year (FY) 2023, working to meet an executive order requiring federal agencies to reach 100% zero-emission vehicles by 2035.



Joint Los Alamos National Laboratory/Savannah River Site Pit Manufacturing Classification Guide Team

This team developed and delivered the Pit Manufacturing Classification Guide. This single guide consolidates information and clarifies gaps and inconsistencies among the previous documents and streamlines the training for new derivative classifiers.



Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program Team

Completed the first shipment of downblended plutonium from SRS to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in FY23. The team upgraded equipment, constructed an interim staging facility, certified the waste characterization process, and hired, trained and qualified over 100 staff in two years, expanding from one to four operational shifts ahead of schedule.



Savannah River Site New Tritium Diffuser Design Team

Tritium Engineering, in collaboration with the Savannah River National Laboratory, completed fabrication of and received the first new high pressure diffuser assembly, after working the design and fabrication for the last three years. The procurement of this and subsequent diffusers will prepare the enterprise for upcoming system revitalization outages and tritium sustainment capabilities.



German FRM-II Low Enriched Uranium Conversion Team

Negotiated and provided the technical analysis and support that led to the Bavarian and German governments' commitment to convert the FRM II research reactor from highly enriched uranium (HEU) to low enriched uranium (LEU). After over a decade of discussion, the teams overcame technical and political challenges to achieve the commitment to end the use of Russian HEU at the FRM II reactor.



International Molybdenum-99 Conversion Team

Achieved the final conversion of the Belgian National Institute for Radioelements Molybdenum-99 Production Facility, marking the successful conversion of all major global Molybdenum-99 producers to only using LEU targets. This supports nonproliferation goals, as well as the sustainable long-term production of a vital medical isotope that is used to diagnose heart disease and cancer across the globe.

A.D. Bollig nominated for 2024 SASIG Chair

SRNS Security Awareness Program Manager Adriene (A.D.) Bollig, has been nominated as the Security Awareness Shared Interest Group (SASIG) Chair for 2024. Bollig has been a member of the SASIG organization since 2018 and received the 2019 SASIG Excellence in Security Awareness Award for her presentation and program development at SRS.



Adriene (A.D.) Bollig

SASIG is a voluntary peer-to-peer network of federal and contractor personnel actively involved with security awareness programs across the DOE/NNSA complex. SASIG assists with implementation of Safeguards and Security Awareness Program requirements, facilitates networking opportunities,

fosters partnership with other federal agencies with security awareness interests, and promotes the benchmarking and sharing of security awareness resources.

Rick Sprague, SRNS Environment, Safety, Health and Quality (ESH&Q) Senior Vice President, stated, "The SASIG is critical to recognizing security threats and advancing best practices to protect the people and missions within the DOE complex. A.D. brings huge enthusiasm to her current Security Awareness role and is a great choice to lead this group."

SASIG is managed by the Chair, Vice Chair and Steering Committee members with the DOE Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security Office of Security Policy (EHSS-51) serving as advisors.

"The SASIG organization has really helped me succeed in my current position. I have been able to share and benchmark with other sites to improve the security trainings, roadshows, security presentations and security forums. I'm looking forward to implementing new ideas and taking the SASIG organization to the next level," said Bollig.

Members of SASIG come from various security disciplines such as Information Security, Personnel Security, Insider Threat, Counterintelligence, Nuclear Material Control and Accountability, Global Security, Physical Security, Operation Security (OPSEC), Technical Security and several others.

Lydia Boynton, SRNS OPSEC Program Manager and SASIG member, stated, "Being a member of SASIG has provided me with greater insight into all things security. It is so easy to become accustomed to just one way of delivering information. The diversity of the SASIG membership has allowed me the opportunity to network with other DOE/NNSA complex sites to learn from the sharing of ideas."



Rachael Simon Acting Manager for SRNS Talent Acquisition and HR Data and Analytics (right) shares internship information with Winthrop University visitors Willie Aiken, Department of Chemistry Operations Manager, left, and Kristi Westover, Department of Biology Chair.

New Winthrop University partnership sparks talent pipeline

Winthrop University faculty and staff recently toured SRS after signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with SRNS that supports workforce development needs and missions.

To date, SRNS officials have established MOUs with 15 local colleges, universities and veteran programs. In November 2023, Winthrop University and SRNS agreed to paid internships in information technology, cyber security, business operations and STEM.

"SRNS seeks to bridge the gap between academic study and professional practice through this partnership," said Sean Alford, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. "We are not only connecting with new candidates from Winthrop but helping the entire institution increase their capacity."

The visitors toured the SRNS Environmental Bioassay Laboratory and nuclear materials management and storage facilities. The tour focused on a broad range of SRS career disciplines, internships and potential collaborative opportunities for students and faculty.

"Our forthcoming strategic plan has a significant focus on community and industry engagement, and providing more experiential learning so our students are ready for 'real-world' opportunities," said Sebastian van Delden, Winthrop University Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. "We look forward to training the next generation of leaders in these fields and enhancing the talent pipeline. It's a win-win for both organizations."

Approximately 2,000 employees will be needed in a variety of occupations to support Pit Production Operations, an enduring mission projected to be in operation for a minimum of 50 years. Efforts to recruit, train and retain knowledgeable employees to support the Pit Production mission continue, as SRS leadership establishes partnerships with additional educational institutions.

"We are constantly looking for ways to leverage the student pipeline within our region and state to support and accelerate the Pit Production mission and requirements from the Department of Energy," said Erika Baeza-Wisdom, Deputy Vice President, NNSA Plutonium Programs and Operations. "The creativity and innovation that Winthrop graduates bring to the table will keep us on track to meet these goals."



SRNS Education Outreach Specialist Cindy Hewitt, right, leads an engineering building activity during the 2023 DIG STEM festival, which was sponsored by SRNS.

SRNS donates \$30,000 to DIG programs

SRNS CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN its partnership and philanthropic contributions to the Dreams, Imagination and Gift (DIG) Development Program, a local organization providing STEM opportunities to promote rural growth and development.

This year, SRNS provided \$30,000 in sponsorship to support both the DIG Scholar Enrichment Academy (after-school program) and the DIG STEM Festival.

“SRNS has played a pivotal role in our ability to inspire, mentor and empower children in rural South Carolina,” said Steven Brown, President and Founder of DIG. “Countless children have gone on to pursue STEM careers, thanks to the financial support and volunteer commitment from SRNS.”

The DIG after-school program encourages higher education and interest in STEM for grades one through eight. The academy currently serves over 300 students across Allendale, Aiken and Barnwell counties. Students engage with engineering principles, science theory, robotics, computer programming and literature arts.

“The DIG Development Program parallels our goal of establishing vital career pipelines to feed our workforce with highly-skilled professionals,” said Dennis Carr. “Our sponsorship and continued support of DIG will help foster economic growth in the local community and introduce STEM career pathways to additional school districts.”

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“Countless children have gone on to pursue STEM careers thanks to the financial support and volunteer commitment from SRNS.”

**Steven Brown,
President and Founder of DIG**

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Since 2015, SRNS has donated over \$171,000 to DIG’s programs and festivals to help this grassroots organization make dreams a reality. To continue program expansion, SRNS funds will be used to support STEM pilot programs in additional school districts and the DIG STEM Festival that reaches thousands of community members annually.

“The impact of this sponsorship goes beyond financial support – it significantly alleviates our anxiety about the challenges ahead,” continued Brown. “It serves as a testament to the power of partnerships with organizations like SRNS, reaffirming our commitment to advancing our mission.”

The 2024 DIG STEM Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 4 in Williston, South Carolina.

SRS Heritage Foundation receives \$10,000 sponsorship

SRNS recently donated \$10,000 to the SRS Heritage Foundation to assist in the funding and operation of the SRS Museum in downtown Aiken, South Carolina. The SRS Museum is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the fascinating history of SRS.

“We give the general public a ‘peek behind the fence,’ where science and history collide,” said Linda Lindler, SRS Museum Director. “The SRS Heritage Foundation helps to educate the public about our history, commemorate the sacrifices and achievements of employees during the Cold War era, and boost the local economy through heritage tourism.”

Since 2005, SRNS has provided over \$146,000 in funding for the growth and expansion of the SRS Heritage Foundation initiatives. Permanent exhibits in the museum include a fallout shelter, a radiation exhibit, educational displays for the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory and the 6,000 Voices exhibit.

“Sharing the Site’s significant history to future generations is crucial,” continued Lindler. “The funding and support from SRNS will help expand educational programming for local students, support events at the SRS Museum and increase awareness through our permanent exhibits.”

As part of heritage tourism and outreach of the SRS Cold War History Preservation Program, artifacts from the SRS Curation Facility are brought from behind the gates to give the public a unique viewing opportunity.

“Preserving and sharing the history of SRS is not only an important mission but is driven by the National Historic Preservation Act,” said Susie Ferrara, SRNS Manager, SRS Cold War History Preservation Program. “The Cold War was a time of patriotic duty for employees and an urgency to protect our nation with a nuclear deterrent.”

The SRS Museum will continue to be a primary vehicle for sharing the important role SRS continues to play in the nation’s defense, nuclear deterrence and discovery.

“We are honored to continue our partnership with the SRS Heritage Foundation,” said Dennis Carr. “Our legacy will continue to touch thousands each year with help from the SRS Museum, which is dedicated to bringing our stories of scientific and technological innovation to life.”



James (J.C.) Epting, Senior Vice President, NNSA Tritium Operations and Programs; Walt Joseph, SRS Museum Founder; and Susie Ferrara, SRNS Manager, SRS Cold War History Preservation Program, commemorate the \$10,000 donation from SRNS.



In March 2020, Aiken Senior Life Services purchased a 19,000-square-foot facility, which they later renamed the Anne and Cot Campbell Center.

Three-year pledge of \$45,000 helps Aiken Senior Life

SRNS continues a three-year pledge of \$45,000 in support of Aiken Senior Life Services’ (ASLS) new facility – which provides ‘Meals on Wheels,’ transportation and enrichment programming for Aiken County senior citizens.

For over 50 years, ASLS services have supported the independence, health and well-being of seniors in the community. In 2023, the ASLS Meals on Wheels program created 18 meal routes across Aiken County – serving over 90,000 meals and traveling over 1 million miles to feed the hungry.

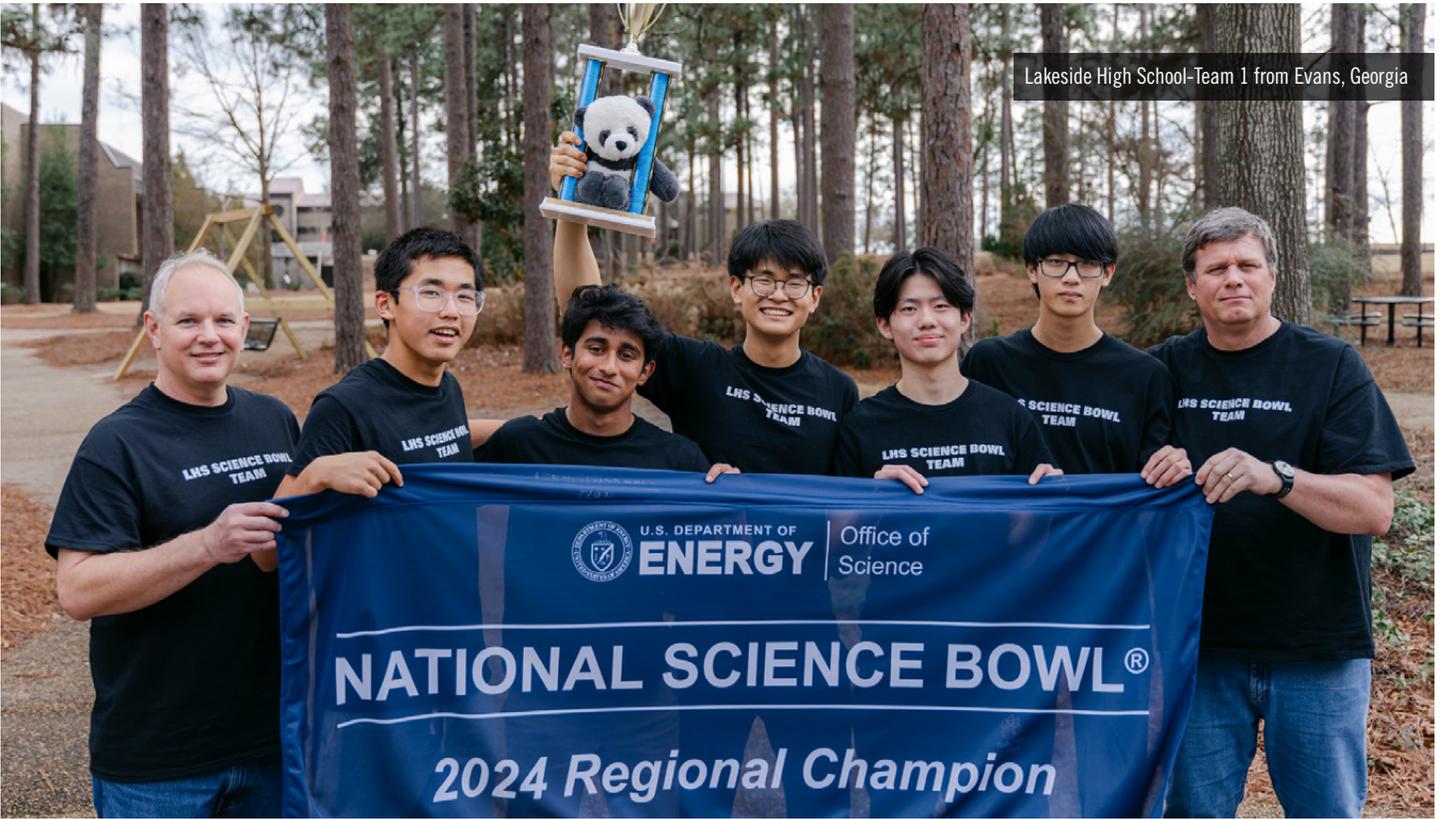
“By 2030, we will be reaching what some call the ‘Silver Tsunami,’ in which older people will actually outnumber children for the first time in history,” said Aimee Hanna, ASLS Executive Director. “As baby boomers reach their senior years and longevity increases, there simply are not enough services to meet this growing demand.”

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the senior population in South Carolina will double to an estimated 1.8 million by 2030. The previous ASLS facility had reached capacity, preventing the agency from expanding services to meet this need.

“The lack of space made it difficult for our agency to expand its current program offerings,” continued Hanna. “We knew we had to find a larger facility to protect our future missions.”

In March 2020, ASLS purchased a 19,000-square-foot facility that could reach a larger population. Since July 2022, they have raised over \$550,000 of their \$1.5 million goal for the building known as the Anne and Cot Campbell Center.

“Our three-year pledge to support ASLS continues as they grow and expand their services,” said Martha Ruthven, SRNS Community Relations Specialist. “SRNS is honored to contribute the funding needed to bring the new building to life, where it will serve an even greater number of seniors and bring awareness to this public health issue.”



SRS-sponsored team advances to DOE’s National Science Bowl

Future scientists, engineers and mathematicians recently put their knowledge to the test during the annual U.S. DOE Savannah River Regional Science Bowl® Competition, which attracted nine teams from South Carolina and the greater Augusta area in Georgia.

Lakeside High School - Team 1 of Evans, Georgia, won an all-expense paid trip to DOE’s National Science Bowl® competition in Washington, D.C., which will take place April 25-29. Lakeside High School - Team 2 placed second. Dorman High School placed third.

“Students arrived feeling excited and ready to show off their brilliant skills,” said Cindy Hewitt, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist. “Competing teams work incredibly hard studying, practicing and strategizing each year to win this regional competition and continue on to D.C.”

Teams faced off in a fast-paced question-and-answer format similar to the television show “Jeopardy.” Questions covered a range of academic disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, energy and math.

“Our performance was a testimony of the work we’ve put in all year to build our team from scratch,” said Amari Robinson, an 11th grade student from Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School. “We went from practicing in a controlled and calm environment to a high-pressure competition that required us to ‘buzz in’ within seconds.”

“This competition teaches students how to make mistakes and bounce back by rallying together,” said Coach John Cato, Lakeside High School. “As we gear up for nationals, I hope my team can look back on this experience and see the friendship and support they’ve gained from the extra hours and effort put into this program.”

SRS is one of only three DOE sites to participate annually at the regional level since DOE created the National Science Bowl in 1991.

Volunteers from multiple Site contractors work as judges, scorekeepers, moderators and timekeepers during the regional tournament each year.

Participating schools

Aiken High School
Aiken, South Carolina

Augusta Preparatory Day School
Martinez, Georgia

A.R. Johnson Magnet School
Augusta, Georgia

Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School
Augusta, Georgia

Dorman High School
Roebuck, South Carolina

Dutch Fork High School
Irmo, South Carolina

Lakeside High School
Evans, Georgia

Lowcountry Preparatory School
Pawleys Island, South Carolina

South Carolina Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics
Hartsville, South Carolina



Robert Abshire

AT SRNS: Lead Operations Support Specialist

IN THE COMMUNITY: Volunteer for Project VISION, Samaritan's Purse, Millbrook Baptist Church and Fermata Club

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

Robert Abshire has worked on-site since 1990 and currently supports Contractor Assurance processes in Environmental Management Operations for SRNS. In this role, he investigates facility issues, conducts issue investigations, performs causal analysis and tracks corrective actions. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education from Georgia Southern University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Augusta College.

Abshire said, "My favorite part of working at SRNS is the people and their passion to serve the local community."

For 25 years, Abshire has volunteered for the United Way of Aiken County Project VISION (Volunteers in Service in Our Neighborhoods), an annual event established to help United Way of Aiken County partner agencies with facility upkeep, as well as provide home repairs for low-income homeowners and senior citizens.

"Operating on a strained budget, Project VISION provides a resourceful method of utilizing funds donated through the United Way to help low-income and disabled elderly in the Aiken community. In addition, the event partners with larger companies in the Aiken area to repair homes," said Abshire. "Being involved in Project VISION has given me the opportunity to see the impact it has made in the lives of many in the surrounding area."

Not only does he support Project VISION, but Abshire also volunteers with the Samaritan's Purse, a Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to victims of war, natural disasters, disease, famine, poverty and persecution. In addition, he volunteers as a bus driver for Millbrook Baptist Church and is on the board of directors for the Fermata Club.

A new way to 'rise and shine' at SRTE

Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) has started holding a weekly Stretch and Flex session every Wednesday morning to help promote a healthy and safe workspace. The program was originally held during SRTE's annual Housekeeping Day and slowly grew in popularity among the teams.

"Stretch and Flex is a part of our Safety Improvement Plan," said Deb Solomon, SRTE Director of Environment, Security, Safety and Health. "It's an excellent way to prevent most 'walking through life' injuries and helps to prevent muscle strains. It's also a fun way to start the morning and a great team building exercise, encouraging folks from all over SRTE to interact with each other outside of their normal space."

Activities vary from session to session, but all involve light movements intended to loosen joints and warm up muscles in preparation for strenuous operations. The routines are also an excellent way to alleviate any stress that could present itself from sitting at a desk for long periods of time. Each session lasts for 15 to 20 minutes and is held outside, weather permitting.

Well over a dozen participants took part in the most recent Stretch and Flex led by NNSA Communications Specialist Samantha Mason.

"I'm not entirely sure how I ended up leading these," Mason joked, following the day's activities. "They asked, and I just took on the role. I



Employees take part in a morning Stretch and Flex during SRTE's Housekeeping Day. Tritium has started holding Stretch and Flex on a weekly basis to promote worker health and safety.

take part in a boot camp class so I just took some of the movements I learned from there and incorporated it into our stretches."

J.C. Epting, Senior Vice President, NNSA Tritium Operations and Programs, commented on the recent addition to SRTE's weekly agenda, expressing his hopes that other groups around the Site would adopt a Stretch and Flex program of their own. He cited the health and safety benefits as a major selling point in Tritium's decision to start the program.

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