

from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC

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**For Immediate Release**

## SRS Employee Transition Center Receives National Recognition

AIKEN, S.C. (Dec. 13, 2011) – The Lower Savannah Council of Governments Workforce Development (Lower Savannah COG), based in Aiken and serving a six-county region, presented Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS) yesterday with the “2011 Innovation Award” from the National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation recognizing the value of SRS Transition Center in Aiken, S.C.

In partnership with the Lower Savannah COG, the SRS Transition Center has been managed by SRNS personnel to provide a conveniently located facility and broad range of resources for employees released from the Savannah River Site (SRS) workforce since March 2011.

Lower Savannah Workforce Development Area Administrator Sam Jordan praised the SRNS Workforce Services staff for their diligence, dedication, and extensive efforts to develop and implement an exemplary transition center and oversee its daily operations.

“The award provides recognition for the hard work and innovative approach demonstrated on a daily basis at the Transition Center. The bringing together of the



*SRNS recently earned the “2011 Innovation Award” from the National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation recognizing the value of the SRS Transition Center in Aiken, S.C. Lower Savannah Workforce Development Area Administrator Sam Jordan (with plaque) presented the award to Dwayne Wilson, SRNS President & CEO. Also participating in the presentation are (from left) Gary Perez, SRS Transition Center Coordinator; Bob Rhoden, SRNS Manager, Workforce Planning & Transition Services; and Jim Hanna, SRNS Senior Vice President, Corporate Services.*

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*The SRS Employee Transition Center, located in historic downtown Aiken, SC*

various entities of the U.S. Department of Energy, Department of Labor, Department of Employment and Workforce, and private business to assist this group of individuals is an excellent example of leveraging scarce resources and is a wonderful collaboration,” Jordan said.

The Transition Center staff is currently working with a broad variety of companies and nuclear sites throughout the U.S. and Canada to locate new employment opportunities for these individuals. The Center has assisted approximately 453 individuals with 173 of those finding new employment since the center opened.

Through a State Reserve Dislocated Worker Grant from the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce, supplemental Transition Center personnel are available to assist those clients seeking employment resources. The resources offered include assistance with unemployment compensation, computer labs for job searches, employee assistance counseling, financial counseling, a large variety of printed materials, and on-site workshops on resume preparation, interview skills, locating and obtaining training to fill skill gaps, and most importantly, new employment opportunities. The center also offers a four-week workshop and assistance on how to start your own business. The Transition Center sponsors open houses on a frequent basis for companies to present employment opportunities and conduct on-site interviews at the Center.

In addition to former SRNS employees, those workers recently involuntarily separated from Savannah River Remediation and WSI Team Savannah River are also utilizing the Transition Center and the array of services offered.

“Down-sizing a company is always a painful process,” said Jim Hanna, Senior Vice President, SRNS Corporate Services. “We highly respect each and every employee and feel obligated to help ease and facilitate their transition into a new form of employment to the greatest extent possible.” Hanna added that the national award reflects the effectiveness of the Center towards accomplishing this goal.

The National Association of Development Organizations is a Washington, D.C.-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The association’s Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community

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competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities. Award winners were honored during NADO's 2011 Annual Training Conference, held in October in Miami, Florida.

"Creative projects like the Lower Savannah COG and SRNS Workforce Transition Center advance the economic growth and sustainability of our nation's regions and communities. For more than 20 years, NADO's Innovation Awards have provided regional development organizations throughout the nation a unique opportunity to showcase their important work and their critical role in promoting economic development for rural and small metropolitan communities," said NADO President Tim Ware, executive director of the Mid-East Commission in Washington, North Carolina.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor Partnership comprised of Fluor, 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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