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SRNS Mentor-Protégé Program Expands, Breaks New Ground

New jobs created at SRS through small, local companies hiring area workers

AIKEN, S.C. (Sept. 3, 2014) – Department of Energy (DOE) primary contractor Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) recently expanded the Savannah River Site's Mentor-Protégé Program with the addition of long-term contracts. This change will greatly benefit participating small and minority-owned businesses, as well as SRNS, while boosting area economies.

The program was developed to significantly increase the number of small businesses providing products and services at the Savannah River Site (SRS), each serving as a subcontractor in support of the site's much larger, prime contractors.

"Working with Mentor-Protégé subcontractors synergistically improves our ability to meet our contractual responsibilities to DOE," said Dawn Moore, SRNS Manager, Supply Chain Management Policy & Compliance. "At the same time, it creates numerous opportunities for our company to work closely with each of these small businesses with a goal to nurture and enhance their economic and technical capabilities."

This practical and cooperative method of doing business fosters long-term business relationships. In addition, it qualifies participating Mentor-Protégé businesses to obtain future contracts at other DOE sites and Federal agencies as they grow in experience and size.

In the past, Mentor-Protégé Program contracts have been limited in length to a matter of days or a few months. However, new ground has been broken with the signing of a multi-year contract with US&S of Greenville, S.C.



Technicians Christy Harkins (left) and Tyler Watson repair a heating and air conditioning system at a large SRS facility while working under a new policy developed by SRNS used to support small and minority-owned businesses and the hiring of local workers.

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Owned by a disabled military veteran, this small business has hired 14 local residents to perform general maintenance at SRS, supplementing the site's existing maintenance personnel.

"This is a 'win' for the family-owned business, US&S," said Doug Young, Project Manager, SRNS Site Services. "It's also a win for 14 local people in need of a job. And, it's a huge advantage for us, since this arrangement frees up over a dozen of our SRNS mechanics to perform work requiring extensive training and certification within SRNS nuclear facilities."

According to Moore, two more small businesses have qualified for long-term contracts at SRS. "We're still working out details before we will see their personnel on site," said Moore. "However, they too will greatly benefit us towards fulfilling our missions and day-to-day work faster and more cost effectively."

US&S owner and general manager Richard Hagins has been pleased with the site's Mentor-Protégé Program. "They are genuine in their desire to help small companies like ours to grow not only in size, but also in experience and expertise," said Hagins. "We'd recommend any qualified business to take advantage of this exceptional program and the opportunities it offers."

Young is also quick to note that SRNS has also benefitted from the fresh perspective and practical tips shared by US&S personnel with SRS maintenance workers.

"This program is another prime example demonstrating the Department of Energy's desire to support small, disadvantaged and minority-owned local businesses," said Dr. David Moody, Savannah River Operations Office Manager. "Small companies are the heart and life blood of our cities and towns. It's to our advantage to support them in any practical and feasible way possible at SRS."

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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