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For Immediate Release

Registration Opens for SRNS Future City® Competition

South Carolina's Students and Those from Nearly 40 Other Regions Across the Country to be Tasked with Designing and Developing Virtual and On-Site Health Care Systems for Clinics and Hospitals of Future Generations

AIKEN, S.C. – May 27, 2010 – Engineers have long played a vital role towards improving our quality of life by designing ground-breaking technologies and products in the field of healthcare. Starting this fall, South Carolina's middle school students participating in the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC 2010-11 Future City® Competition will be asked to design a program that supports and sustains the level of healthcare that doctors, patients, and citizens will demand for generations to come.

The South Carolina competition gets underway with the new school year in the fall and culminates with the regional finals, sponsored by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and the University of South Carolina Aiken (USCA), in January 2011. One winning team from South Carolina will qualify for a trip to the national finals in Washington D.C., Feb. 18-22, 2011. The National Finals Grand Prize winners receive a trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, provided by National Finals host Bentley Systems, Incorporated.

"Future City opens the eyes of our students to the opportunities found within careers involving engineering," said Barbara Smoak, Manager, Education Outreach, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions. "The various interactive tasks associated with this competition demonstrate to the students that engineering can be creative and fun. As a company, SRNS is pleased to support a program that helps these kids realize that what they learn can be used to help people improve their lives."

Students start with a research essay describing their concept, which this year is themed “Providing a reliable and effective health care product that effectively improves the quality of life and comfort for a patient who is either a senior citizen or has a specific disease, or is suffering from an illness, injury or physical disability.”

As they envision the medical centers, clinics and hospitals of the future, students will also propose, design and develop the supporting infrastructure – both virtual and physical – that would be integral to those facilities. Participating students will use SimCity 4 Deluxe software to design a virtual Future City model incorporating their ideas. Then they will build a physical model using recycled materials costing less than \$100.

As they address how to treat a specific category of patient with a specific condition, students will explore options for the practice of both virtual and on-site medicine. They will detail the development of systems to support diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and rehabilitation.

“Yet again this year, we are pleased to continue our relationship with the USCA Ruth Patrick Science Center for this year’s South Carolina Regional Competition,” said Smoak. “Our partnership has been invaluable.”

The 2010-11 Future City Competition is expected to attract more than 33,000 students from 1,100 middle schools nationwide. This year, for the first time, sixth graders are being invited to join seventh and eighth grade students in the competition.

Registration deadline for schools nationwide is Friday, Oct. 29, 2010. Future City is also looking for professional engineers who may be interested in serving as mentors. For information, school registration, or to volunteer in the Future City Competition, visit www.futurecity.org

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-Daniel Partnership comprised of Fluor, Northrop Grumman 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.

Caption: Shown is the winning team from the 2009 S.C. Regional Future City Competition, team “Jasaka.” Representing North Augusta Middle School are Jasaka team members (left to right) Julie Spieker, Kirstyn Denney, and Sarah Larabee.

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