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For Immediate Release

The 2009 Science and Engineering Fair Regional Competition: Leading Area Students to Careers in Science, Technology and Engineering

AIKEN, S.C. (March 9, 2009) – With the support of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS) and other co-sponsors, the Savannah River Regional Science and Engineering Fair competition is scheduled to take place on March 14 for the benefit of students from area schools.

SRNS is coordinating this competition for schools from 20 counties located throughout the Central Savannah River Area. Over 300 students are expected to qualify for this event, which will be held at the University of South Carolina Aiken, Business and Education Building.

Other co-sponsors include the University of South Carolina Aiken and The South Carolina Academy of Science.

"SRNS is continually looking for opportunities to further improve the quality of education found throughout the CSRA," said Chuck Munns, President and CEO, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC. "Hosting this Regional Science and Engineering Fair is one more way we can do our part to contribute to this important cause."

The Savannah River Regional Science and Engineering Fair will give young people from the area the opportunity to explore the world of science and technology and develop their scientific investigation skills and knowledge by planning, constructing and exhibiting their own "hands-on" science projects. Projects are judged for scientific reasoning, creative ability, thoroughness, technical skill and clarity. The science fair promotes students' interest by providing public recognition of outstanding work and by giving students the opportunity to interact with community scientists and engineers.

During the regional competition held at the University of South Carolina Aiken, all of the entries will be on display and open to the public (free of charge) for viewing from 4-5 p.m., Saturday, March 14.

The winner of each regional competition will travel to Reno, Nevada, for this year's international competition. Finalists for this year's international competition will arrive from a field of more than 65,000 students who participated in more than 550 regional science and engineering fairs around the world.

Great ideas start with opportunities. At the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), the world's largest pre-college science competition, students have a chance to dream and create big ideas like: A better way to get fresh water to victims of natural disasters, a way to help the blind and disabled access the Internet, or illustrate groundbreaking mathematical theory. These innovations, and more than a thousand like them, are on display every year at Intel ISEF, a global celebration of scientific excellence.

Intel ISEF brings together over 1,500 leading young scientists from more than 50 countries, regions and territories to compete for more than \$4 million in scholarships and prizes.

Students' projects encompass a wide range of topics and disciplines, often addressing issues that have stumped scientists for years. In 2008, more than 20 percent of the young scientists competing at Intel ISEF either had or had applied for a patent for their work.

The award ceremony will begin at 5 p.m., USCA Business and Education Building.

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