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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SRNL's John Dewes Receives Hungary's Golden Cross of Merit

AIKEN, S.C. (March 24, 2014) – The Director of Global Security at the Department of Energy's Savannah River National Laboratory has been awarded the Golden Cross of Merit of the Republic of Hungary. The honor was bestowed on Director John Dewes and Igor Bolshinsky of Idaho National Laboratory by Hungarian President János Áder for their efforts to reduce the threat of terrorism by eliminating highly enriched uranium from the country of Hungary. It is that country's highest civilian award.

"We have worked since 2005 with the Hungarians to secure a total of 200kg of highly enriched uranium," said Dewes. He has been to Hungary more than three dozen times over the years to help make sure this material stays in the right hands and remains safe.

"Hungary is an excellent example of how through effective partnerships, we can reduce the threat of terrorism by eliminating inventories of highly enriched uranium. The scientific work performed at the Budapest research reactor, where the highly enriched uranium was located, is very critical to Hungary, but they were receptive to an agreement that substituted the high hazard uranium with low enriched uranium, while maintaining the same level of performance in their research reactor," he added.

Dewes said he appreciates the honor. "It's good to hear that someone appreciates your



John Dewes, SRNL Director of Global Security



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work. I have enjoyed working with my Hungarian counterparts and have found the people of Hungary to be warm and welcoming. It's nice to get an award from those you respect and admire.”

“It's through the hard work of people like John that we are able to help keep our country and the world safe from potential nuclear security threats,” said Savannah River National Laboratory Director Dr. Terry Michalske. “The success of our laboratory is underpinned by our world-class technical staff. We are pleased that John's hard work and dedication are being recognized on an international level.”

The Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) is a multi-program applied research and development laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy. SRNL applies state-of-the-art science and engineering to provide practical, high-value, cost-effective solutions for our nation's environmental cleanup, nuclear security and clean energy challenges. Visit us on the web at <http://srnl.doe.gov>

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